



Summary of Forum 2008 Findings on Infrared Imaging of Exoplanets

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Missions 2010-2020 Workshop

Pasadena, California
23 April 2009



Contributors



1.1 Contributors

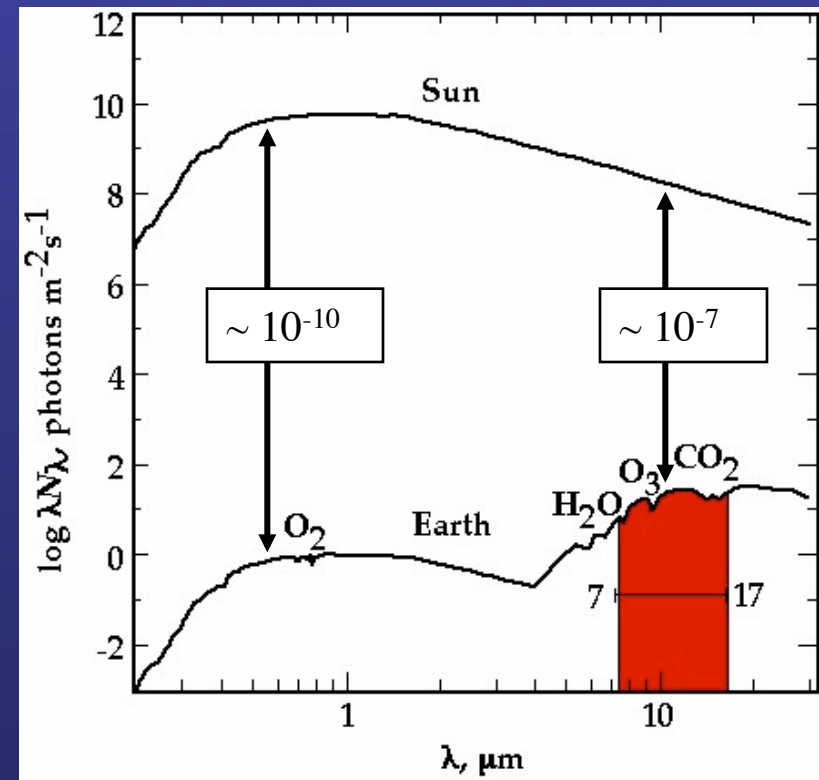
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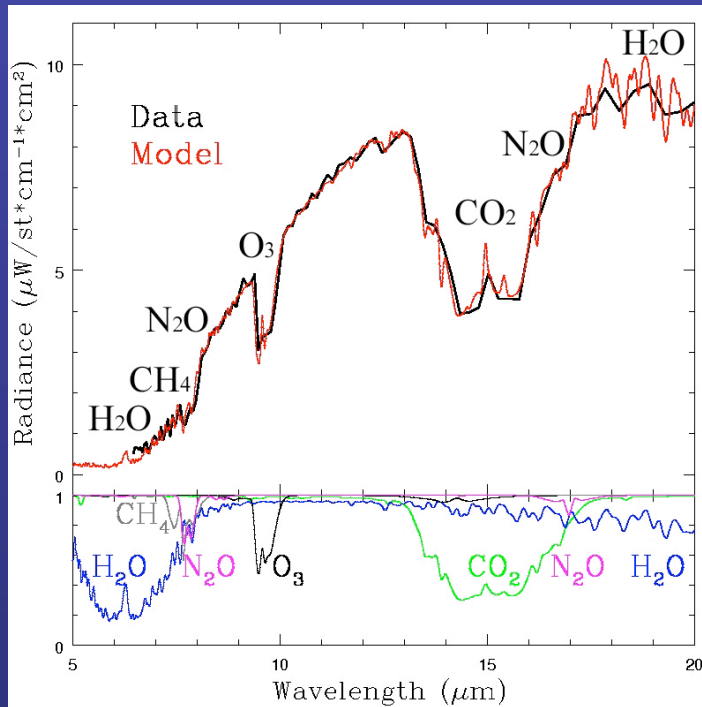


Detecting Earth-area Planets is Difficult

- Detecting **light** from planets beyond solar system is hard:
 - Earth sized planet emits few photons/sec/m² at 10 μ m
 - Parent star emits 10⁶ more
 - Planet within 1 AU of star
 - Exozodi dust emission in target solar system $\times 300$ brighter than earth-area planet for equivalent of *ONE* Solar System Zodi



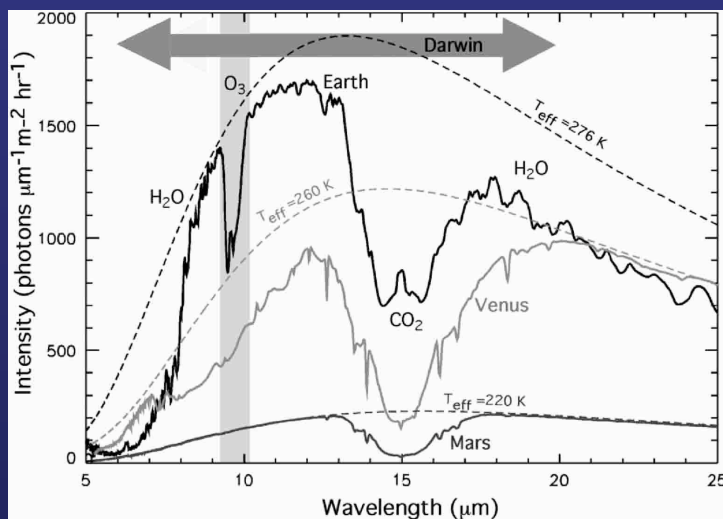
Earth Spectrum & Other Terrestrial Planets



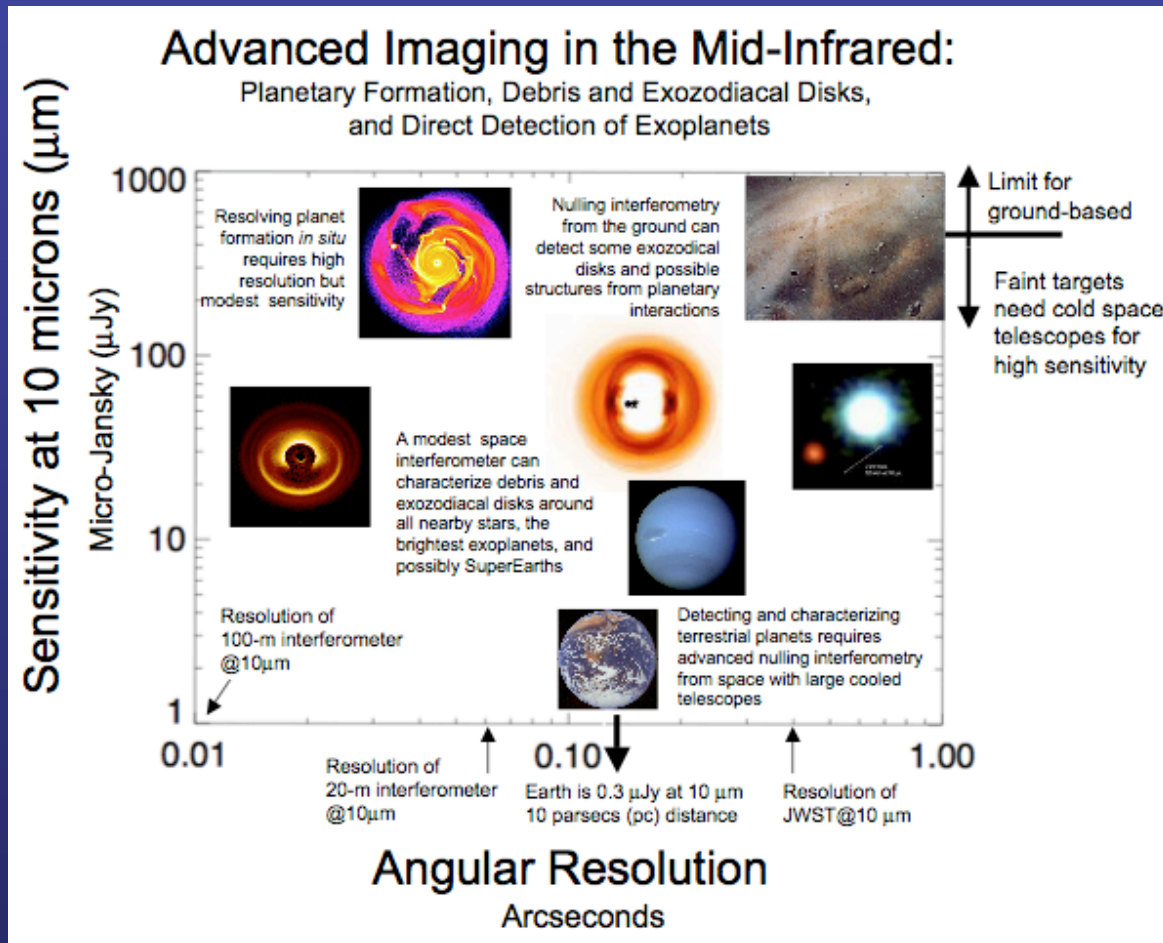
Earth's spectrum shows absorption features from many species, including ozone, nitrous oxide, water vapor, carbon dioxide, and methane

Biosignatures are molecules out of equilibrium such as oxygen, ozone, and methane or nitrous oxide.

Spectroscopy with $R \sim 50$ is adequate to resolve these features.



Sensitivity and Resolution in the Mid-IR



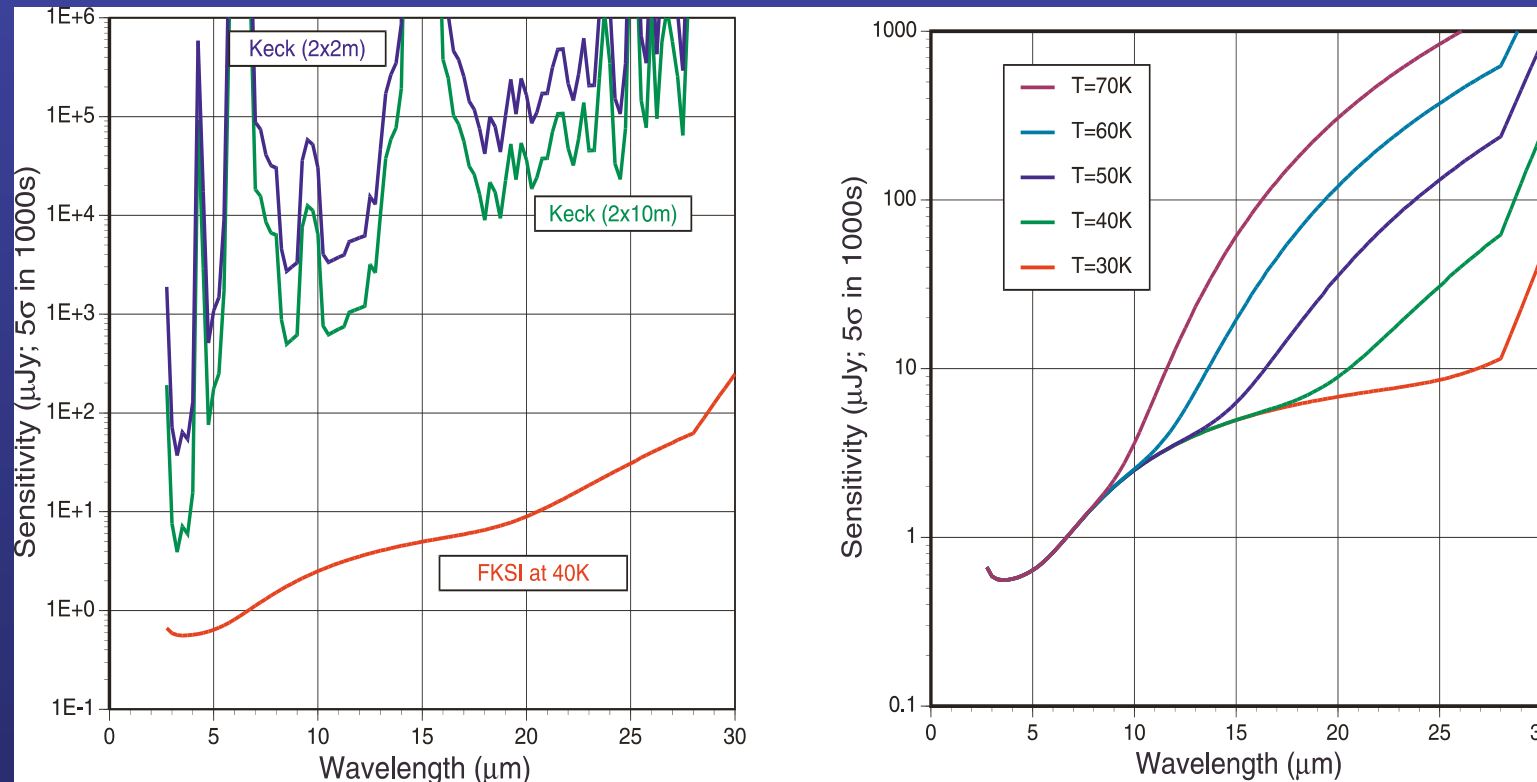
Ground-based interferometry in the IR:

- Limited sensitivity
- Long baselines available
- Good for studying protoplanetary disks

Space-based interferometry:

1. Structurally Connected interferometer (limited baseline length)
 - Exozodi levels for ALL TPF/Darwin stars
 - Debris Disks
 - Characterize Warm & Hot Planets & Super Earths
2. Formation-flying or tethers (long baselines)
 - Detect and characterize many Earth-sized planets
 - Transformational astrophysics

A SMALL Cooled Space Telescope is Very Sensitive Compared to a LARGE Ground-based Telescope



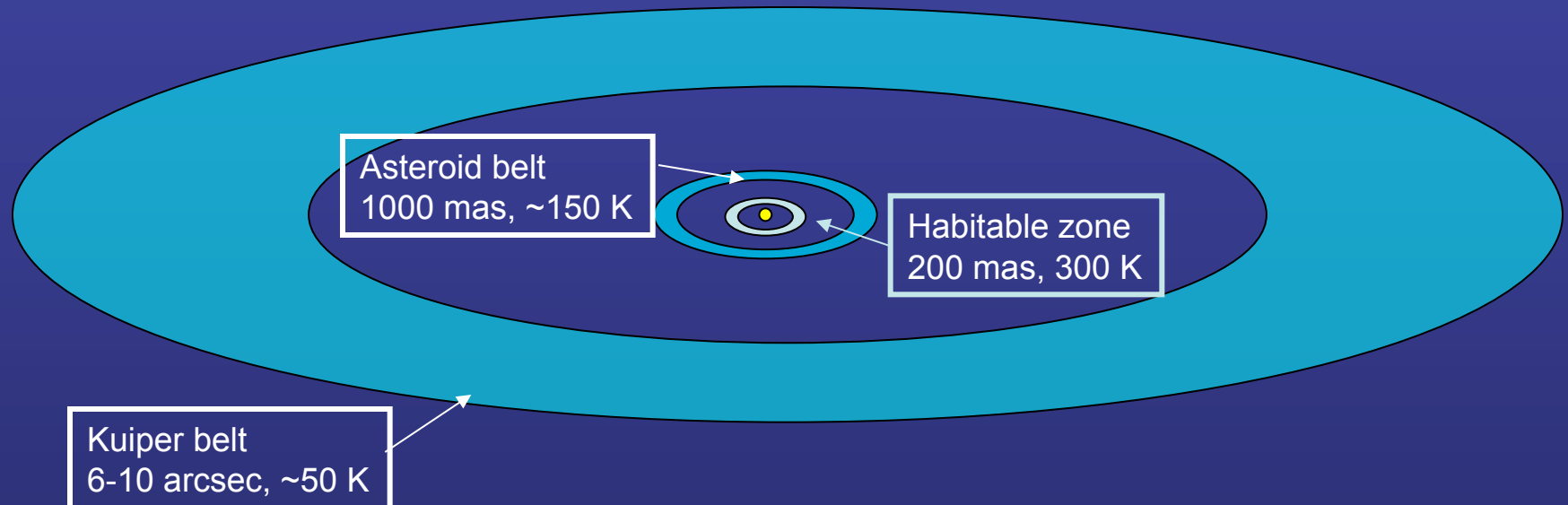
Left panel . The sensitivity of the FKSI system (1 m telescopes) with telescope temperature at 40 K compared to either two 10 m Keck telescopes or two Keck 2 m outrigger telescopes.

Right panel. Effect of telescope temperature on FKSI sensitivity.

Solar System angular size scales



G star at 10 pc (roughly to scale – angular sizes given in diameters)



At 10 microns:



KI: resolution ~ 12 mas



LBTI: resolution ~ 46 mas

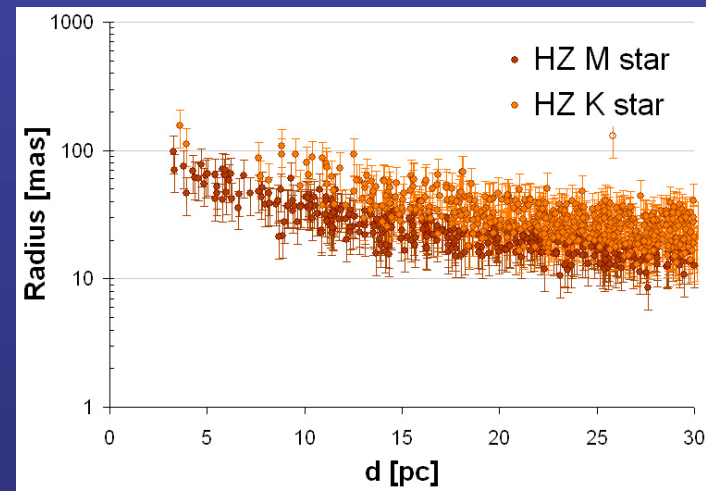
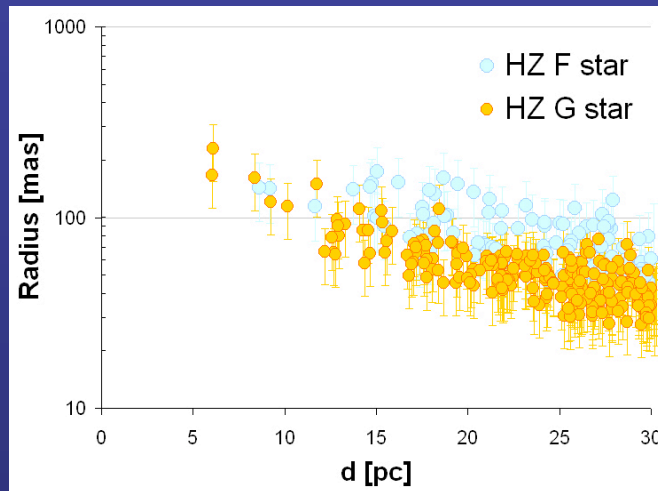


JWST: resolution ~ 390 mas

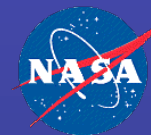


Spitzer: resolution ~ 2 arcsec

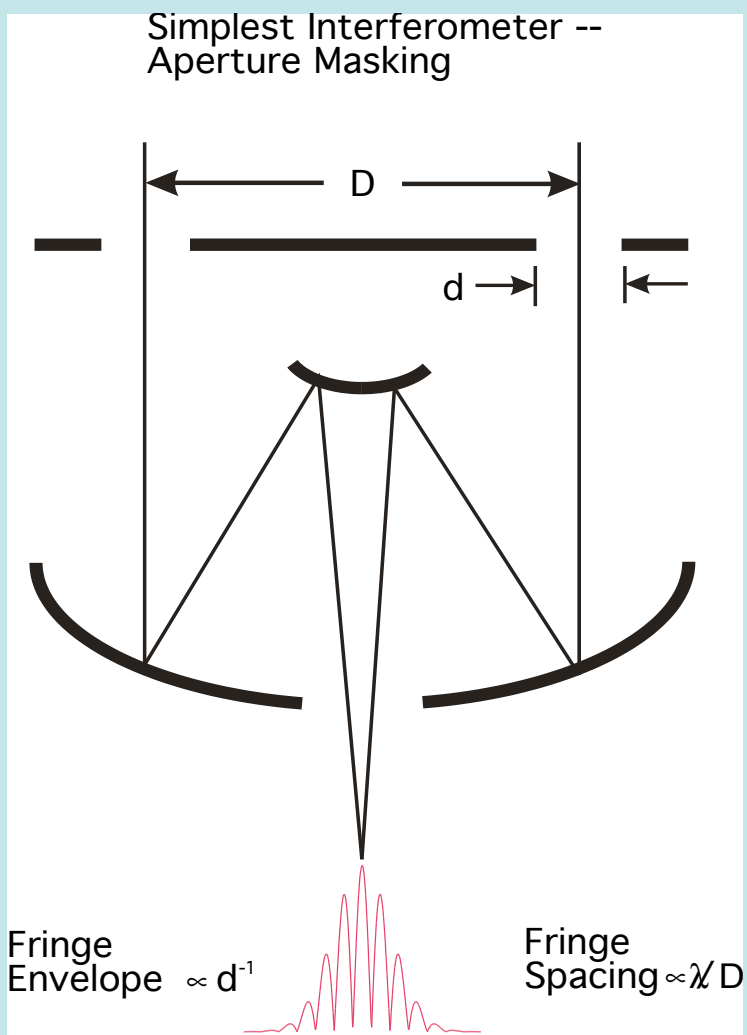
Angular Size of the Habitable Zone



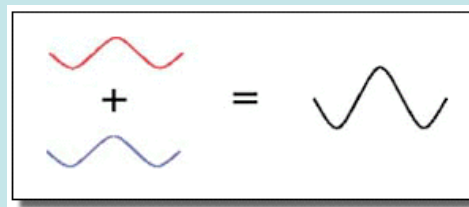
Size of habitable zone is $10 < \text{HZ (mas)} < 200$
for all F,G,K, M stars < 30 pc from Earth



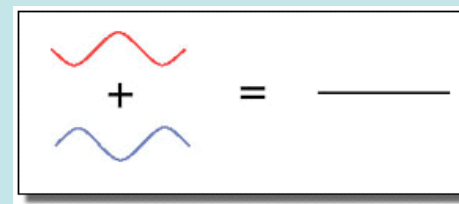
A simple interferometer



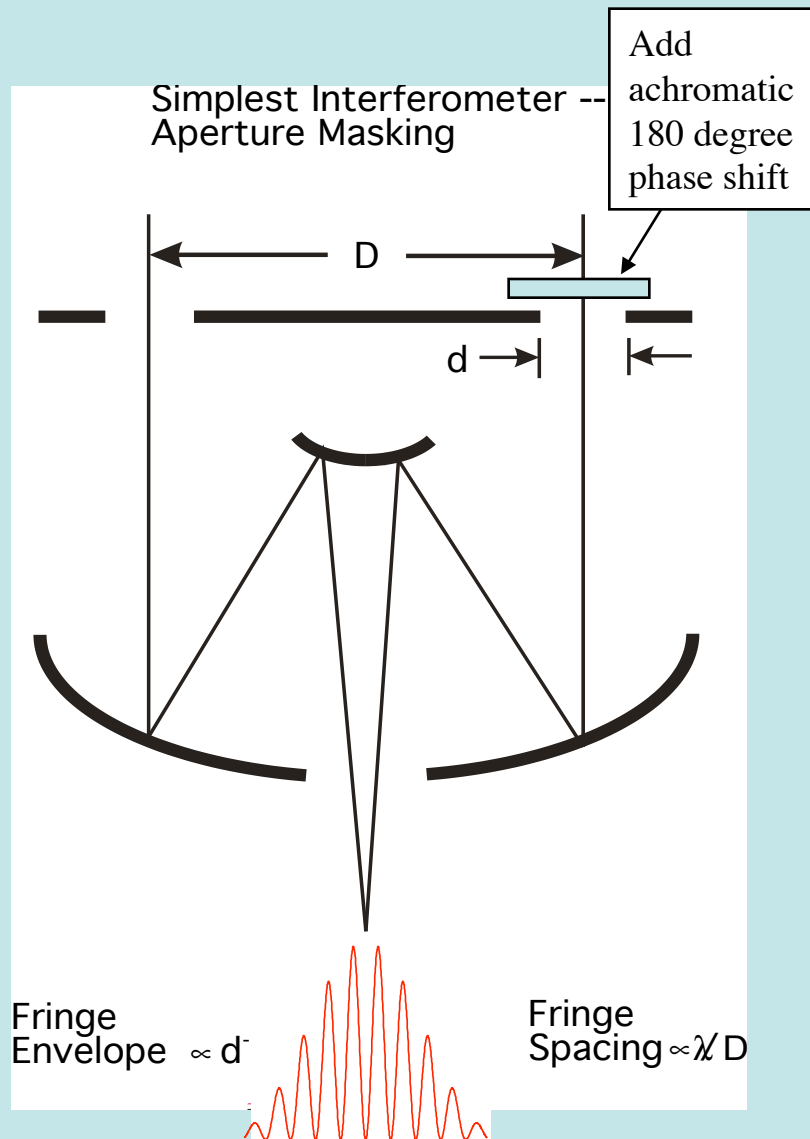
- You get a peak when pathlengths are equal on both sides -- “white light fringe”



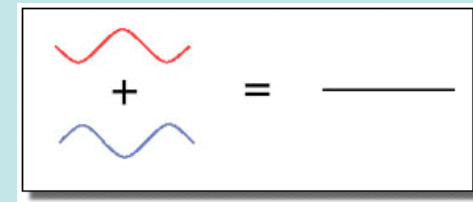
- You get a null when pathlengths differ by one half a wavelength -- a “dark fringe”



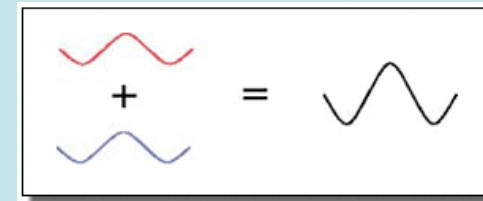
A simple nulling interferometer



- You get a null when pathlengths are equal on both sides -- “white light null fringe”



- You get a peak when pathlengths differ by one half wavelength -- a “bright fringe”





Interferometer Resolution

(Also Inner Working Angle, roughly speaking)

Interferometer Resolution is:

$\lambda/(2B)$ where λ is wavelength and B is the baseline.

For 100 mas resolution --> $B = 10$ m at $10 \mu\text{m}$

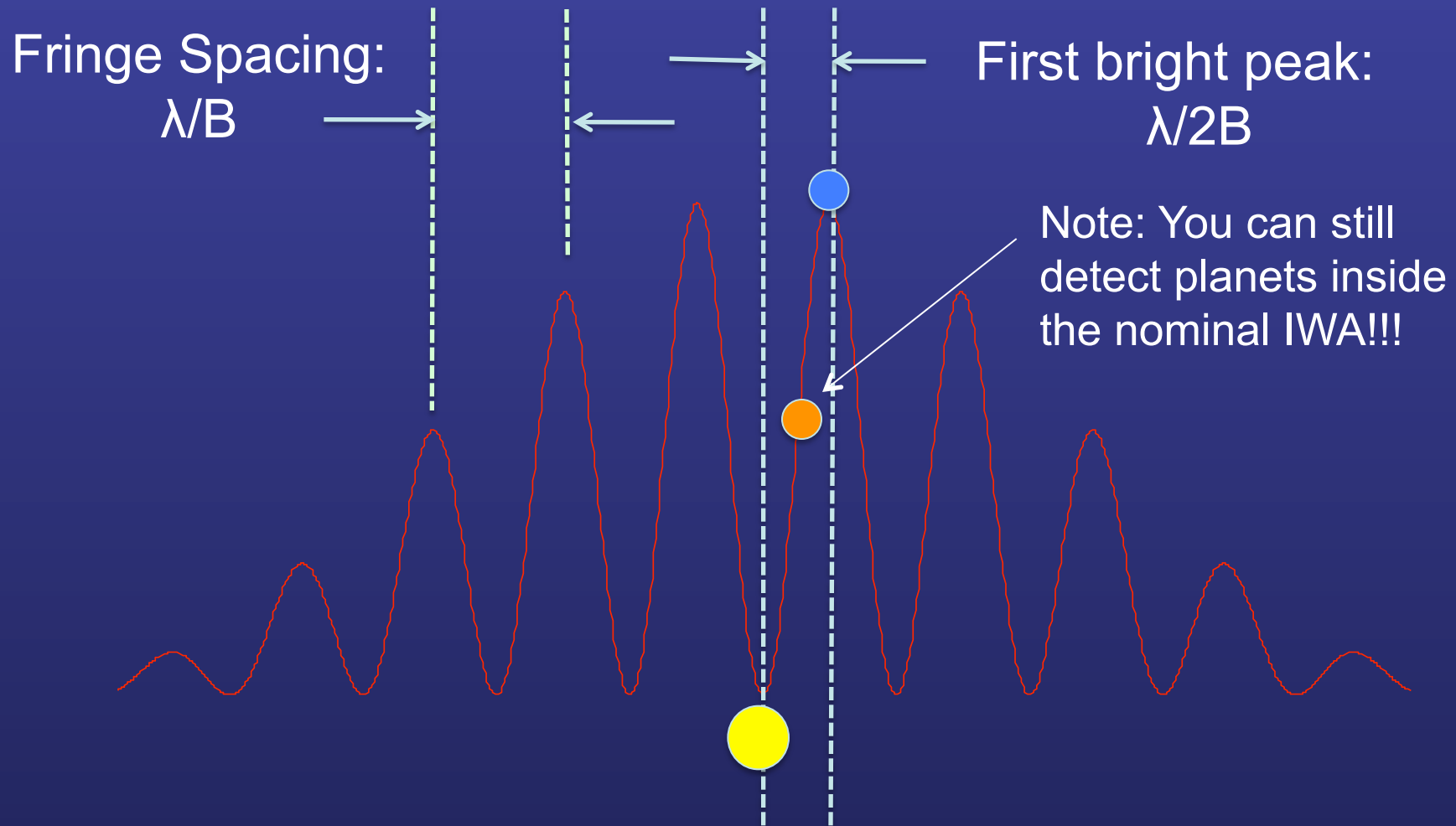
10 mas resolution --> $B = 100$ m at $10 \mu\text{m}$

This sets the minimum baseline size.

A 20-40 m baseline at $10 \mu\text{m}$ is adequate resolution for a substantial number of nearby F,G,K, stars, or 1/2 that if the center wavelength is $5 \mu\text{m}$.



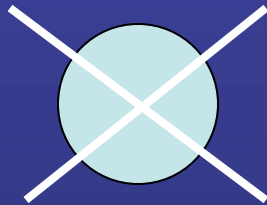
Inner Working Angle (roughly speaking)



IWA Discussion

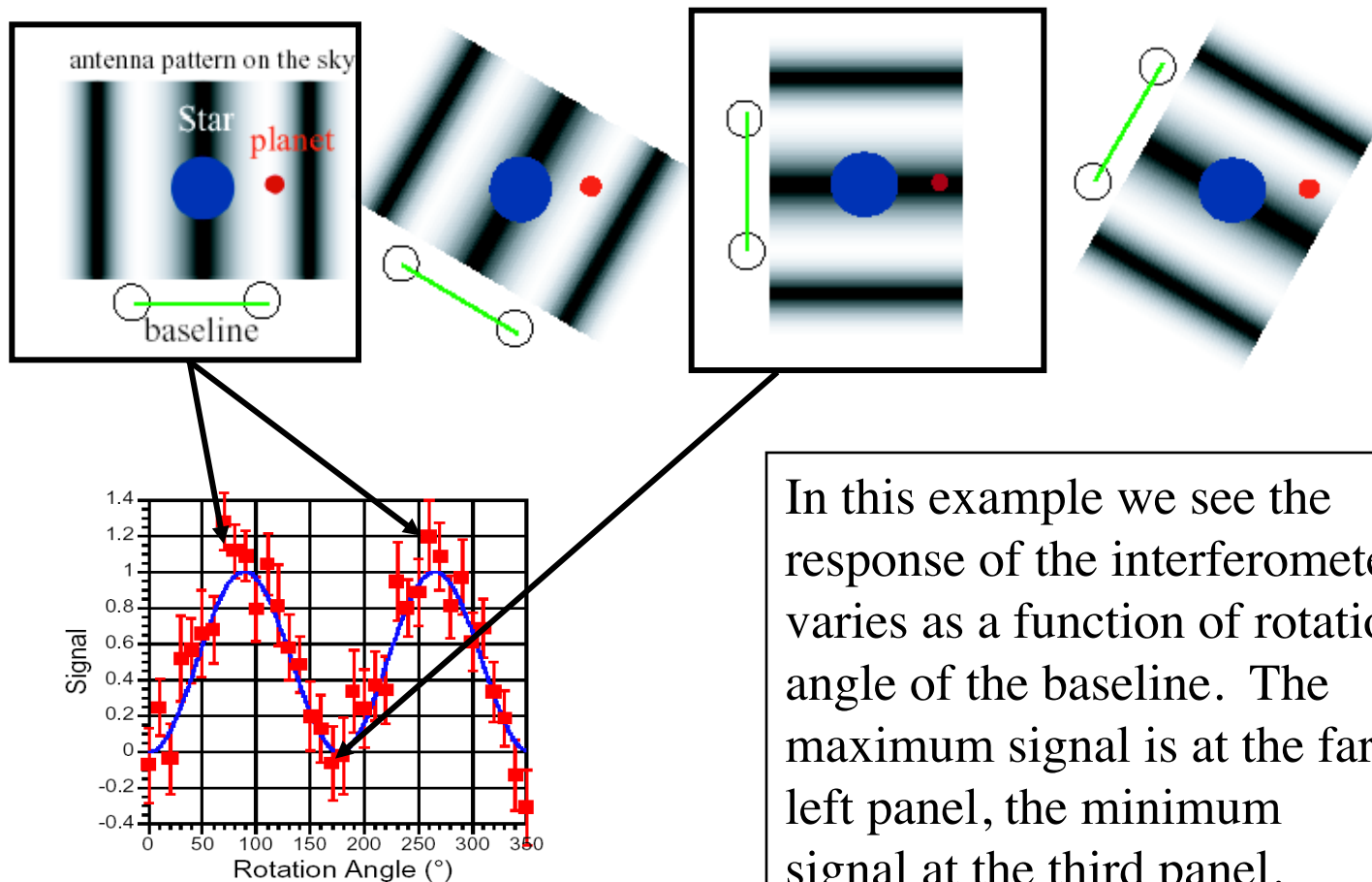


- Thus the IWA is a “soft” function for an interferometer
- It is NOT a circle that blocks all the light for $\theta < \theta_{\text{circle}}$



- The response is more complex and subtle, so one must be careful in discussing detectability of planets based on simple IWA arguments.
- Also this is an issue regarding regarding revisit strategies, etc.

A Simple Example of an Interferometric Detection of a Planet





Observations and some findings

- *Advanced imaging with both high-angular resolution and high sensitivity in the mid-infrared is essential for future progress across all major fields of astronomy.*
- *Exoplanet studies particularly benefit from these capabilities.*
- *Thermal emission from the atmospheric and telescope(s) limits the sensitivity of ground-based observations, driving most science programs towards space platforms.*
- *Even very modest sized cooled apertures can have orders of magnitude more sensitivity in the thermal infrared than the largest ground-based telescopes currently in operation or planned.*
- *We find a mid-IR interferometer with a nulling capability on the ground and a connected-element space interferometer both enable transformative science while laying the engineering groundwork for a future “Terrestrial Planet Finder” space observatory requiring formation-flying elements.*

Technology Progress



The “fundamental physics” experiments have been demonstrated and the guidance, navigation and control problem has been validated

- Interferometer Milestones established in TPF-I Tech Plan
 - ✓ #M1: Intensity & Phase Compensation over 30% bandwidth June 2005
 - ✓ #M2: Precision Formation Maneuvers with traceability to flight July 2007
 - ✓ #M3: Broadband 10^{-5} starlight suppression $> 25\%$ bandwidth light Jan 2008
 - #M4: Planet detection with chopping and rotation Feb 2009*
 - #M5: Broadband instability noise suppression May 2009
 - Oct 2009
- **These demonstrations are equally valid for any mid-IR interferometer concept being considered in the US or in Europe**
 - Approach and goals are independent of mission type or size
 - Planet Detection Testbed is the key facility for the demonstration of mid-IR interferometry through TRL 4/5.

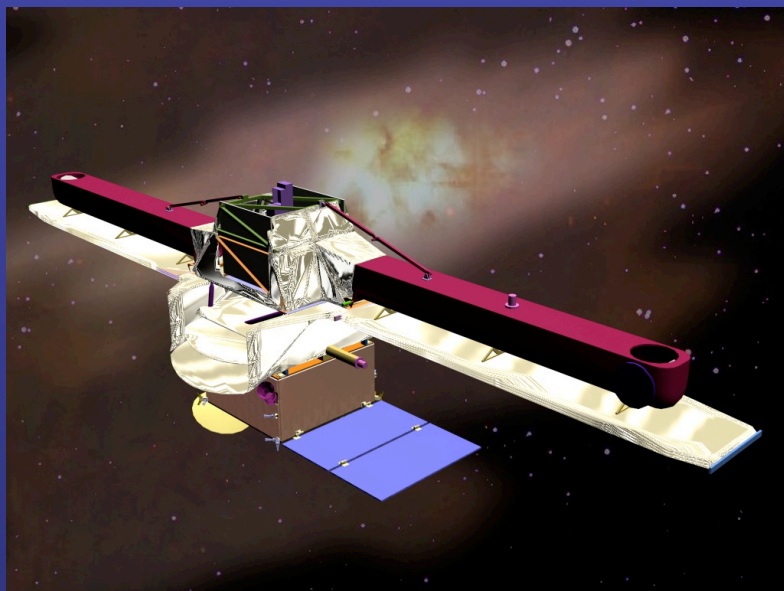
Future efforts will include the following

- Emphasize modeling and validation demonstrations
- Bring the technology to TRL 6, with testing in vacuum and at cryogenic temperatures where relevant
- Provide path towards flight readiness

*Milestone Review in February 2009



A Small Structurally Connected Interferometer; The Fourier-Kelvin Stellar Interferometer (FKSI) Mission



PI: Dr. William C. Danchi

Exoplanets & Stellar Astrophysics, Code 667

NASA Goddard Space Flight Center

Technologies:

- Infrared space interferometry
- Large cryogenic infrared optics
- Passive cooling of large optics
- Mid-infrared detectors
- Precision cryo-mechanisms and metrology
- Precision pointing and control
- Active and passive vibration isolation and mitigation

Key Science Goals

- **Survey of 2 R_{earth} planets around nearby stars**
- **Observe Circumstellar Material**
 - Exozodi measurements of nearby stars and search for companions
 - Debris disks, looking for clumpiness due to planets
- **Characterize Known Extra-solar Planets**
 - Characterize atmospheres with R=20 spectroscopy
 - Observe secular changes in spectrum
 - Observe orbit of the planet
 - Estimate density of planet, determine if rocky or gaseous
 - Determine main constituents of atmospheres
- **Star formation**
 - Evolution of circumstellar disks, morphology, gaps, rings
- **Extragalactic astronomy**
 - AGN nuclei

Key Features of Design:

- ~0.5 m diameter aperture telescopes
- Passively cooled (<70K)
- 12.5 m baseline
- 3 – 8 (or 10 TBR) micron science band
- 0.6-2 micron band for precision fringe and angle tracking
- Null depth better than 10^{-4} (floor), 10^{-5} (goal)
- R=20 spectroscopy on nulled and bright outputs of science beam combiner



Findings Concerning the Performance of a Small Structurally Connected Interferometer

- *To date, progress has been made on the physical characteristics of planets largely through transiting systems, but a small planet finding interferometer can measure the emission spectra of a large number of the non-transiting ones, as well as more precise spectra of the transiting ones.*
- *As a conservative estimate, we expect that a small system could detect (e.g. remove the $\sin(i)$ ambiguity) and characterize about 75-100 known exoplanets.*
- *A small mission is ideal for the detection and characterization of exozodiacal and debris disks around ALL TPF candidate stars in the Solar neighborhood*
- *If the telescopes are somewhat larger than has been discussed in some of the existing mission concepts (e.g., 1-2 m) and are somewhat cooler (e.g., $< 60\text{K}$) so that the system can operate at longer wavelengths, it is possible for a small infrared structurally-connected interferometer to detect and characterize super-earths and even ~ 50 -75 earth-sized planets around the nearest stars.*
- ***Further studies of the capabilities of a small infrared structurally-connected interferometer are necessary to improve upon our estimates of system performance***

Flagship Mission Requirement Summary



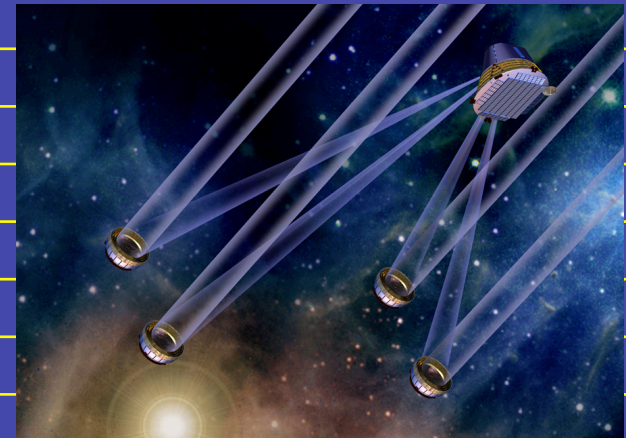
Flagship Interferometer Mission Requirement Summary	
Star Types	F, G, K, selected, nearby M, and others
Habitable Zone	0.7–1.5 (1.8) AU scaled as $L^{1/2}$ (Note *)
Number of Stars to Search	> 150
Completeness for Each Core Star	90%
Minimum Number of Visits per Target	3
Minimum Planet Size	0.5–1.0 Earth Area
Geometric Albedo	Earth's
Spectral Range and Resolution	6.5–18 [20] μm ; $R = 25$ [50]
Characterization Completeness	Spectra of 50% of Detected or 10 Planets Maximum
Giant Planets	Jupiter Flux, 5 AU, 50% of Stars
Maximum Tolerable Exozodiacal Emission	10 times Solar System Zodiacal Cloud
<p>*There are two definitions in the literature for the outer limit of the habitable zone. The first is 1.5 AU scaled to the luminosity to the $1/4$ power based on Kasting et al. (1993). The second is 1.8 AU scaled in the same way from Forget & Pierrehumbert (1997).</p>	

Properties of a Flagship Mid-IR Observatory

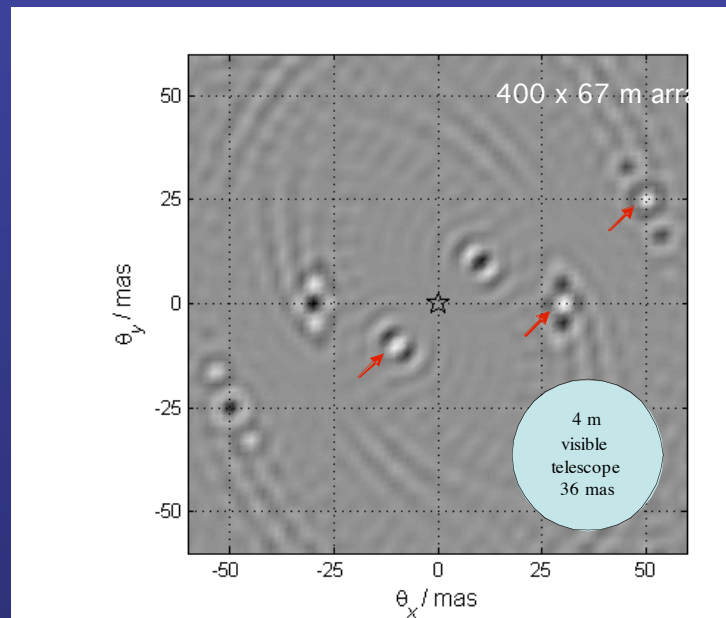


Illustrative Properties of a Flagship Mid-IR Observatory Concept

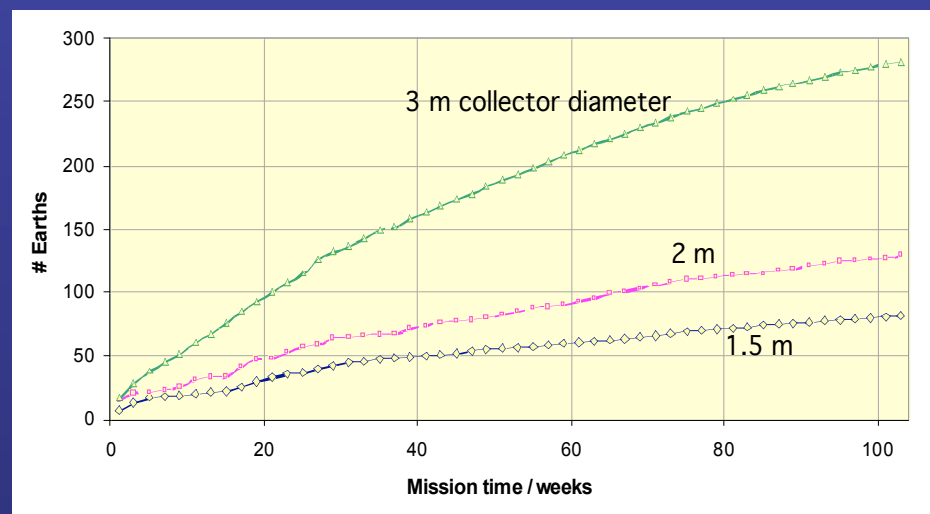
Parameter	4-Telescope Chopped X-Array Emma Design
Collectors	Four 2-m diameter spherical mirrors, diffraction limited at 2 μm operating at 50 K
Array shape	6:1 rectangular array
Array size	400 \times 67 m to 120 \times 20 m
Wavelength range	6–20 μm
Inner working angle	13–43 mas (at 10 mm, scaling with array size)
Angular resolution	2.4 mas to 8.2 mas (at 10 μm , scaling with array size)
Field-of-view	1 arcsec at 10 μm
Null depth	10 ⁻⁵ at 10 mm (not including stellar size leakage)
Spectral resolution $\Delta\lambda/\lambda$	25 (for planets); 100 for general astrophysics
Sensitivity	0.3 μJy at 12 μm in 14 hours (5s)
Target Stars	153 (F, G, K, and M main-sequence stars)
Detectable Earths	130 (2 year mission time, 1 Earth per star)
Exozodiacal emission	Less than 10 times our solar system
Biomarkers	CO ₂ , O ₃ , H ₂ O, CH ₄
Field of regard	Instantaneous 45° to 85° from anti-Sun direction, 99.6% of full sky over one year.
Orbit	L2 Halo orbit
Mission duration	5 years baseline with a goal of 10 years
Launch vehicle	Ariane 5 ECA or equivalent



Flagship Mid-IR Performance Summary



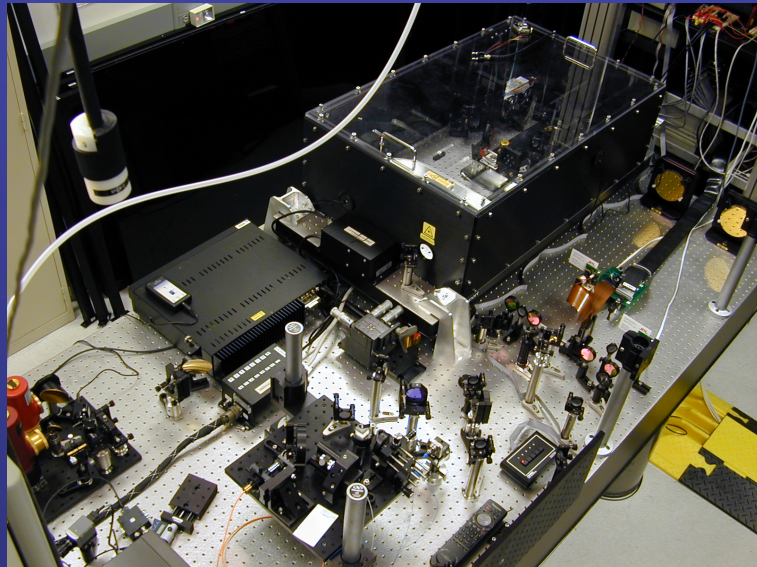
Simulated 'dirty' image from Emma X-Array, prior to deconvolution. Angular resolution is 2.5 mas. Planet locations are indicated by red arrows.



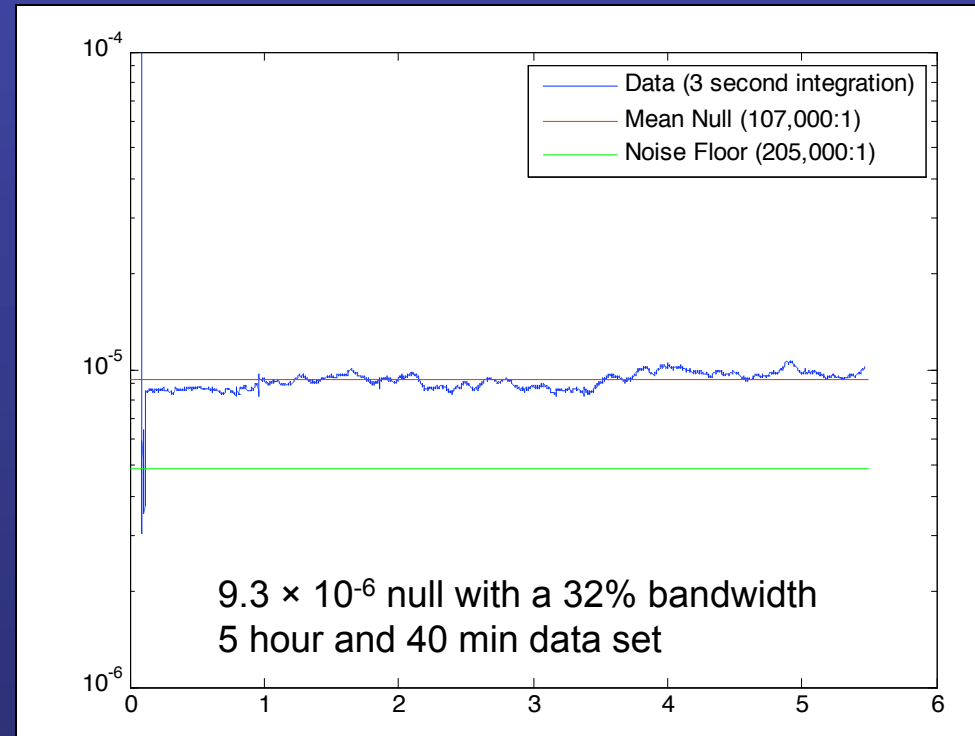
Predicted number of Earths detectable by Emma X-Array architecture as a function of elapsed mission time and collector diameter

Milestone #1: Phase & Amplitude Control

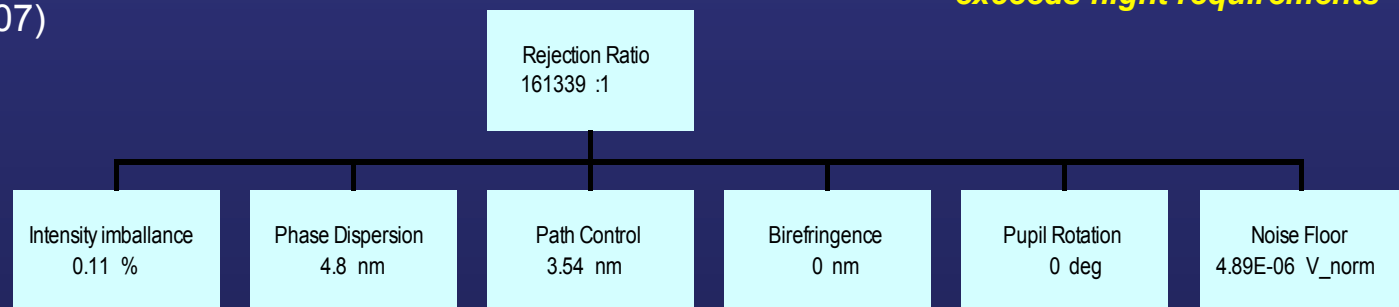
Milestone #3: Broadband Nulling



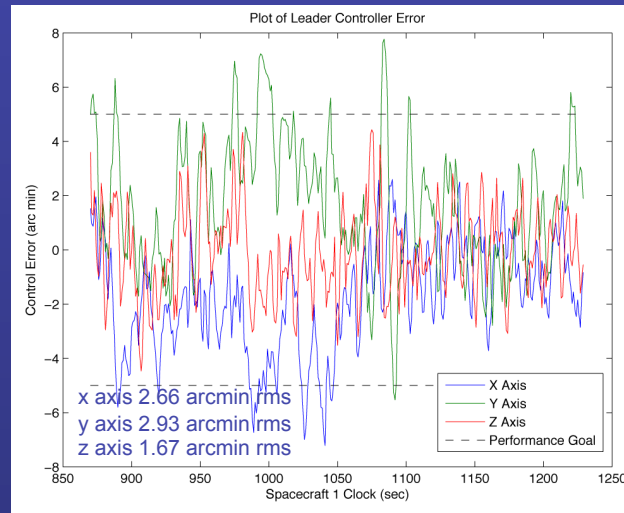
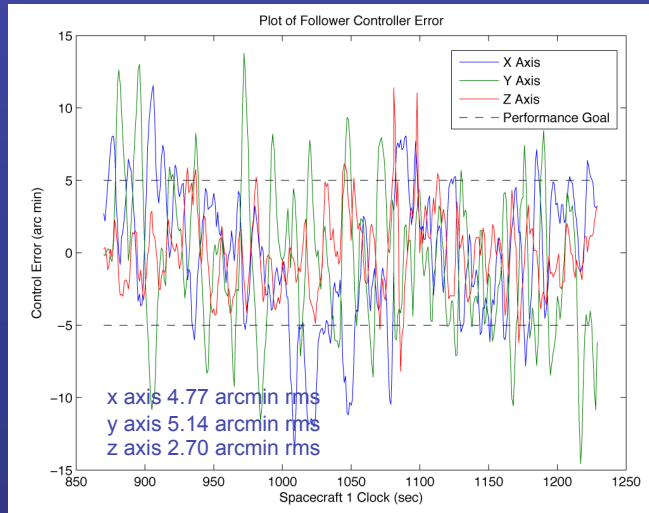
Goal: Mid-infrared nulling with mean null depth of 1×10^{-5} using a 25% bandwidth centered at 10 microns; three 6-hour experiments. (Whitepaper signed, 10 October 2007)



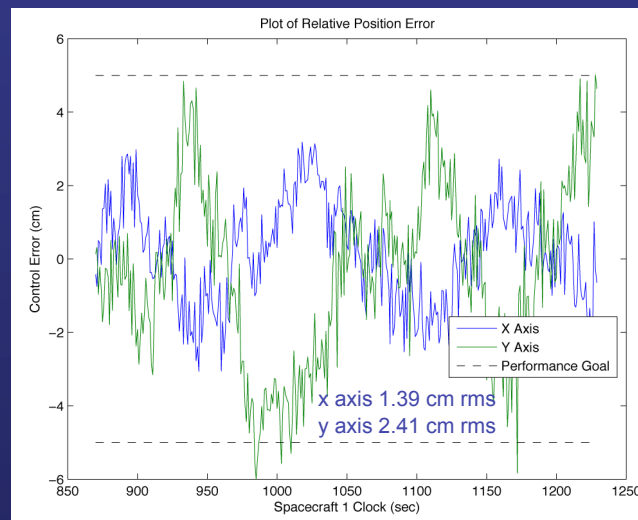
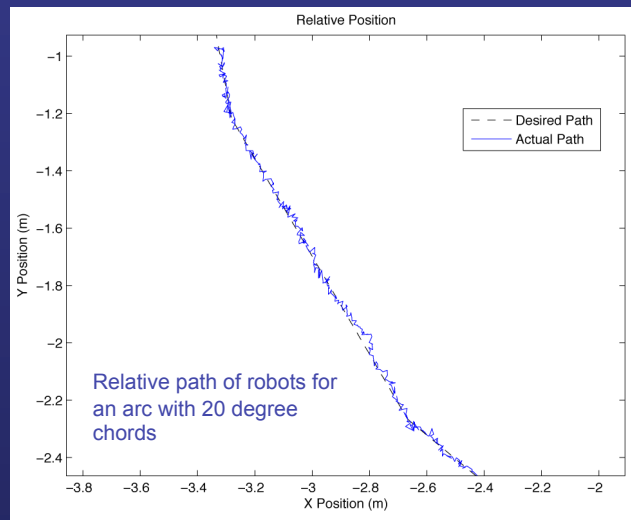
World record broadband mid-IR null, exceeds flight requirements



Milestone #2: Formation Control



TPF-I Milestone #2
experiments for the
formation precision
performance maneuver
were completed
30 September 2007



Goal:
Per axis translation control
< 5 cm rms
Per axis rotation control
< 6.7 arcmin rms
Demonstrated with arcs having 20
and 40 degree chords. Experiments
repeated three times, spaced at least
two days apart.

Milestone Report published
16 January 2008

Example Milestone Data: Rotation maneuver with 20 degree chord segments

Planet Detection Testbed



Milestone #4:

Laboratory demonstration of planet signal extraction with chopping, array rotation, and averaging
(Whitepaper signed, 6 May 2008)

Milestone #5:

Laboratory demonstration of planet signal extraction with spectral filtering and instability noise suppression.
(Whitepaper June 2009)

Will conclude the room-temperature nulling demonstrations for a mid-IR mission

- Brings the technology to TRL 5 with two system-level demonstrations: Milestone #4 and Milestone #5
- 2009/March: Milestone #4 Report Review
- 2009/June : Milestone #5 Whitepaper Review

Additional demonstrations beyond this work would require vacuum cryogenic testing

- Component (e.g., spatial filters, DMs)
- Subsystem (e.g., adaptive nuller, delay lines)
- System (4-beam broadband with flight-like mechanisms and servos)

Path toward a Mid-IR Flagship Mission



The activities required to bring the technology up to TRL 6 may include the following:

In-space Demonstrations of Formation Flying (TRL 6)

- Subsystem Testing
 - RF metrology
 - Optical metrology
- System testing
 - Precision maneuvers
 - Fault tolerant algorithms
 - Collision avoidance demonstrations
 - Fringe tracking with starlight from independent satellites

Vacuum Cryogenic Engineering of Mid-IR Starlight Suppression (TRL 6)

- Component (e.g., spatial filters, DMs)
- Subsystem (e.g., adaptive nuller, delay lines, beam combiner)
- System (4-beam broadband with flight-like mechanisms and servos)

Research & Analysis Recommendations



■ *Ground-based interferometry*

- *Ground-based interferometry serves critical roles in exoplanet studies. It provides a venue for development and demonstration of precision techniques including high contrast imaging and nulling, it trains the next generation of instrumentalists, and develops a community of scientists expert in their use.*
- *We endorse the recommendations of the “Future Directions for Interferometry” Workshop and the ReSTAR committee report to continuing vigorous refinement and exploitation of existing interferometric facilities (Keck, NPOI, CHARA and MRO), widening of their accessibility for exoplanet programs, and continued development of interferometry technology and planning for a future advanced facility*
- *The nature of Antarctic plateau sites, intermediate between ground and space in potential, offers significant opportunities for exoplanet and exozodi studies by interferometry and coronagraphy.*

■ *Space-based Interferometry*

- *Space-based interferometry serves critical roles in exoplanet studies. It provides access to a spectral range that can not be achieved from the ground and can characterize the detected planets in terms of atmospheric composition and effective temperature. Sensitive technology has already been proven for missions like JWST, SIM, and Spitzer, and within NASA’s preliminary studies of TPF*

More Recommendations on R&A Support



- ***Theory support:***

- *We will require sustained support of strong astrobiology and atmospheric chemistry programs.*

- ***Agency Coordination & Programmatic Strategy***

- *NASA and NSF goals, makes it an ideal topic for coordination between the agencies, and we urge NASA and NSF staff to leverage this relationship to cover the full breadth of exoplanet science and technology*

- ***International Coordination, Collaboration, & Partnership***

- *The relationships forged between US and European collaborators should be fostered during the next decade for further studies of small mission and flagship mission concepts. A new letter of agreement is necessary to further future collaborations.*

Refereed Papers



Adaptive Nuller

- “Broadband phase and intensity compensation with a deformable mirror for an interferometric nuller,” R. D. Peters, O. P. Lay, and M. Jeganathan, Appl. Opt. 47, 3920-3926 (2008)

Spatial Filters

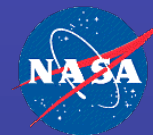
- “Modal filtering for midinfrared nulling interferometry using single mode silver halide fibers,” A. Ksendzov, T. Lewi, O. P. Lay, S. R. Martin, R. O. Gappinger, P. R. Lawson, R. D. Peters, S. Shalem, A. Tsun, and A. Katzir, Appl. Opt. 47, 5728-5735 (2008)
- “Characterization of mid-infrared single mode fibers as modal filters,” A. Ksendzov, O. Lay, S. Martin, J. S. Sanghera, L. E. Busse, W. H. Kim, P. C. Pureza, V. Q. Nguyen, and I. D. Aggarwal, Appl. Opt. 46, 7957-7962 (2007)

Achromatic Phase Shifters

- “Experimental evaluation of achromatic phase shifters for mid-infrared starlight suppression,” R. O. Gappinger, R. T. Diaz, A. Ksendvoz, P. R. Lawson, O. P. Lay, K. M. Liewer, F. M. Loya, S. R. Martin, E. Serabyn, and J K. Wallace, Appl. Opt. 48, in press (2009)

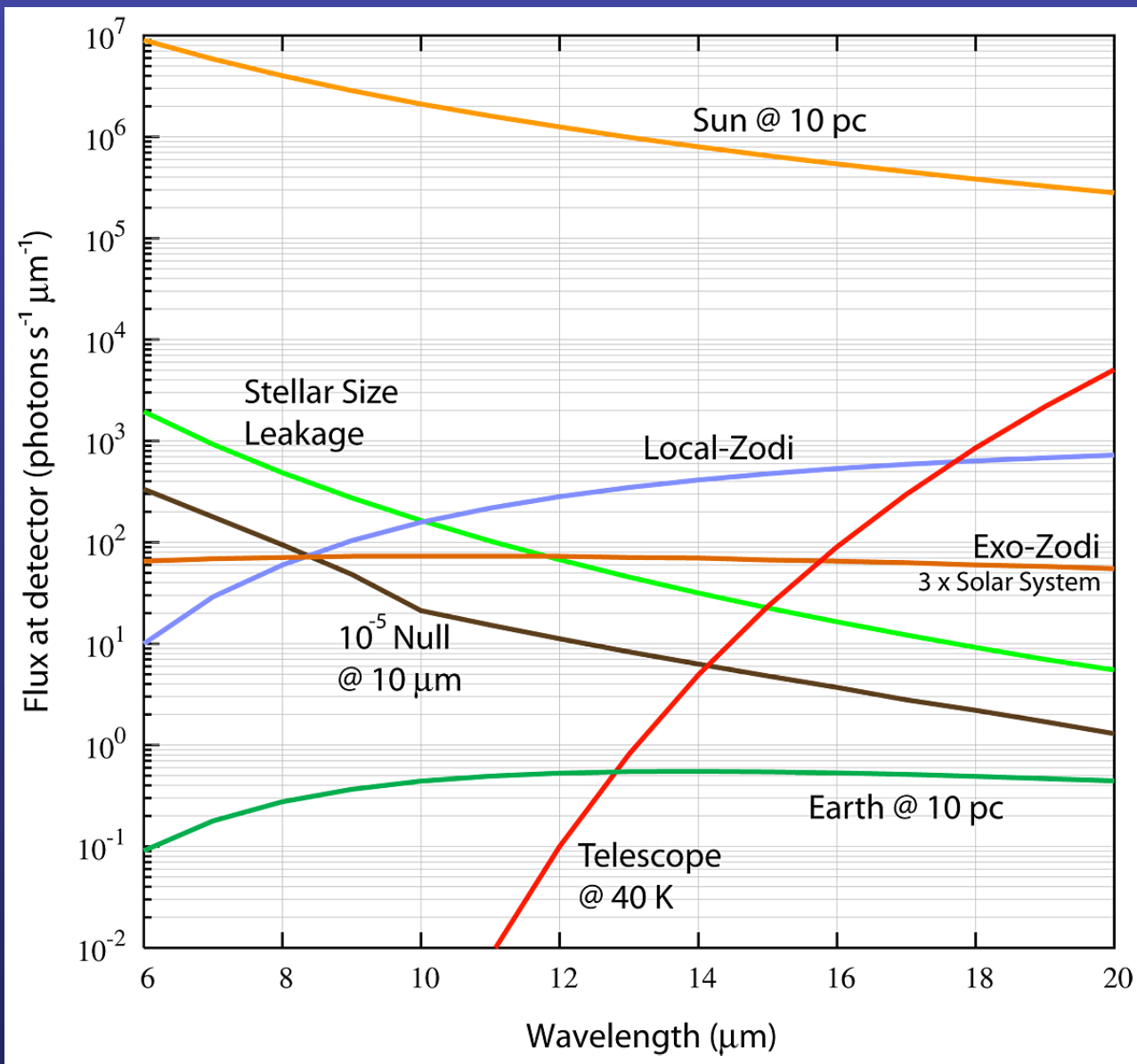
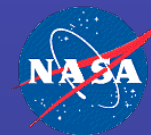
Mid-IR Flagship Mission Concept Paper

- “Darwin: A mission to detect and search for life on extrasolar planets,” C. S. Cockell, A. Léger, M. Fridlund, T. Herbst et al., with contributions from C. Beichman, W. Danchi, K. Johnston, P. Lawson, O. Lay, S. Martin, and E. Serabyn, Astrobiology 9, January (2009)



Backup Slides

Sources of Noise



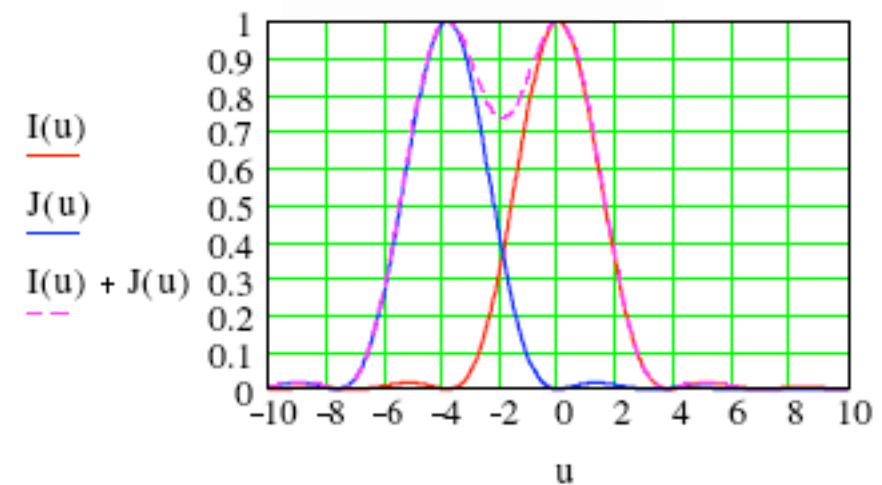
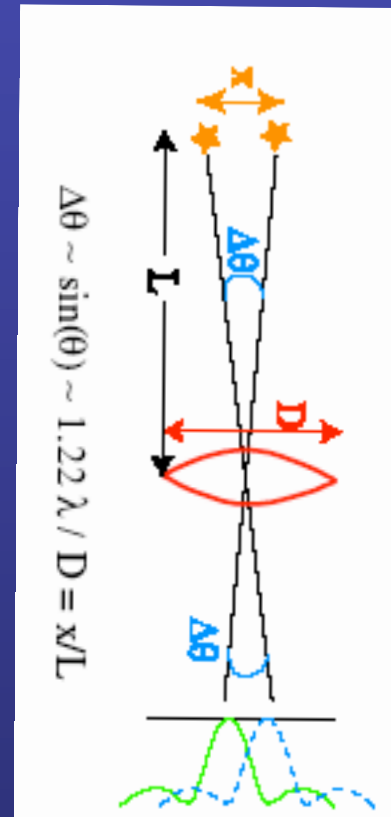
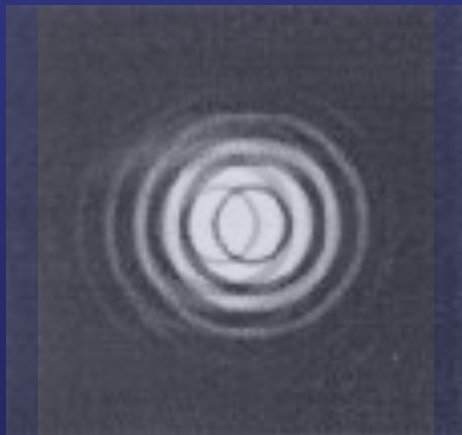


Resolution of a conventional telescope: Rayleigh Criterion

$$\theta_{\text{Tel}} \sim 1.22 \lambda / D$$

λ = wavelength of light

D = telescope diameter

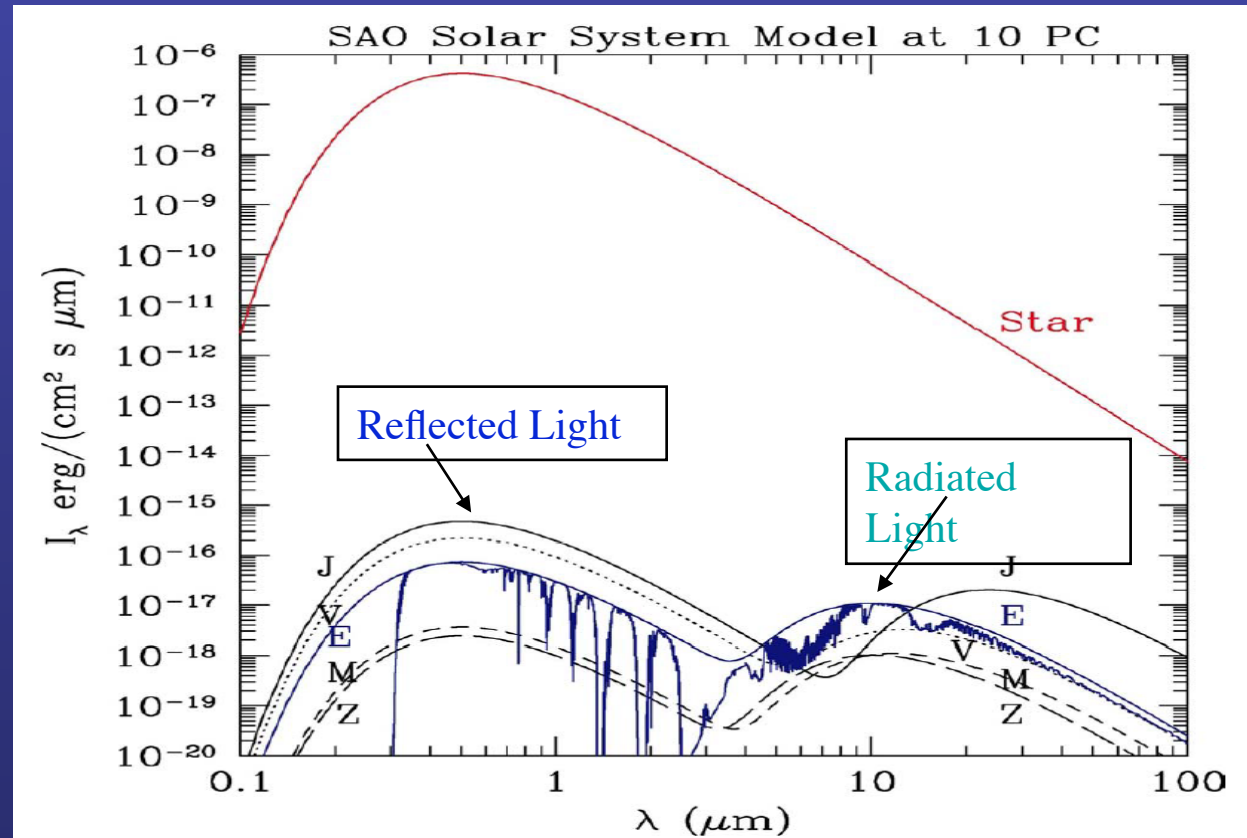


The Solar System Viewed from 10 pc



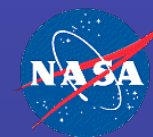
You can search for planets directly either from *reflected* starlight or *re-radiated* starlight

Notice that *different planets have different spectra in the infrared*



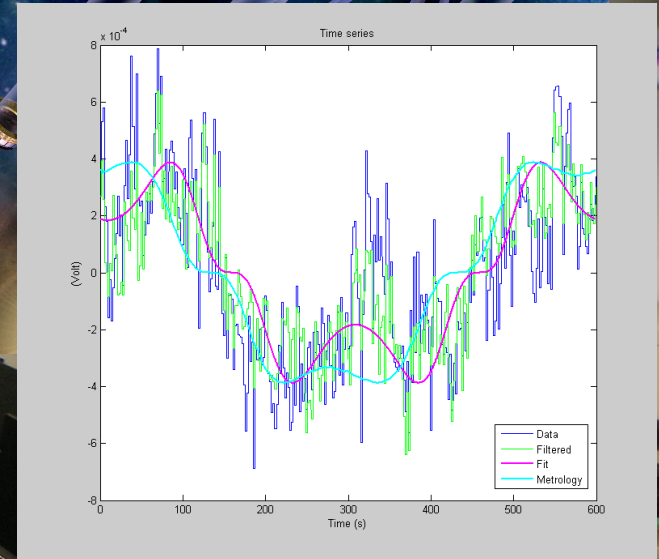
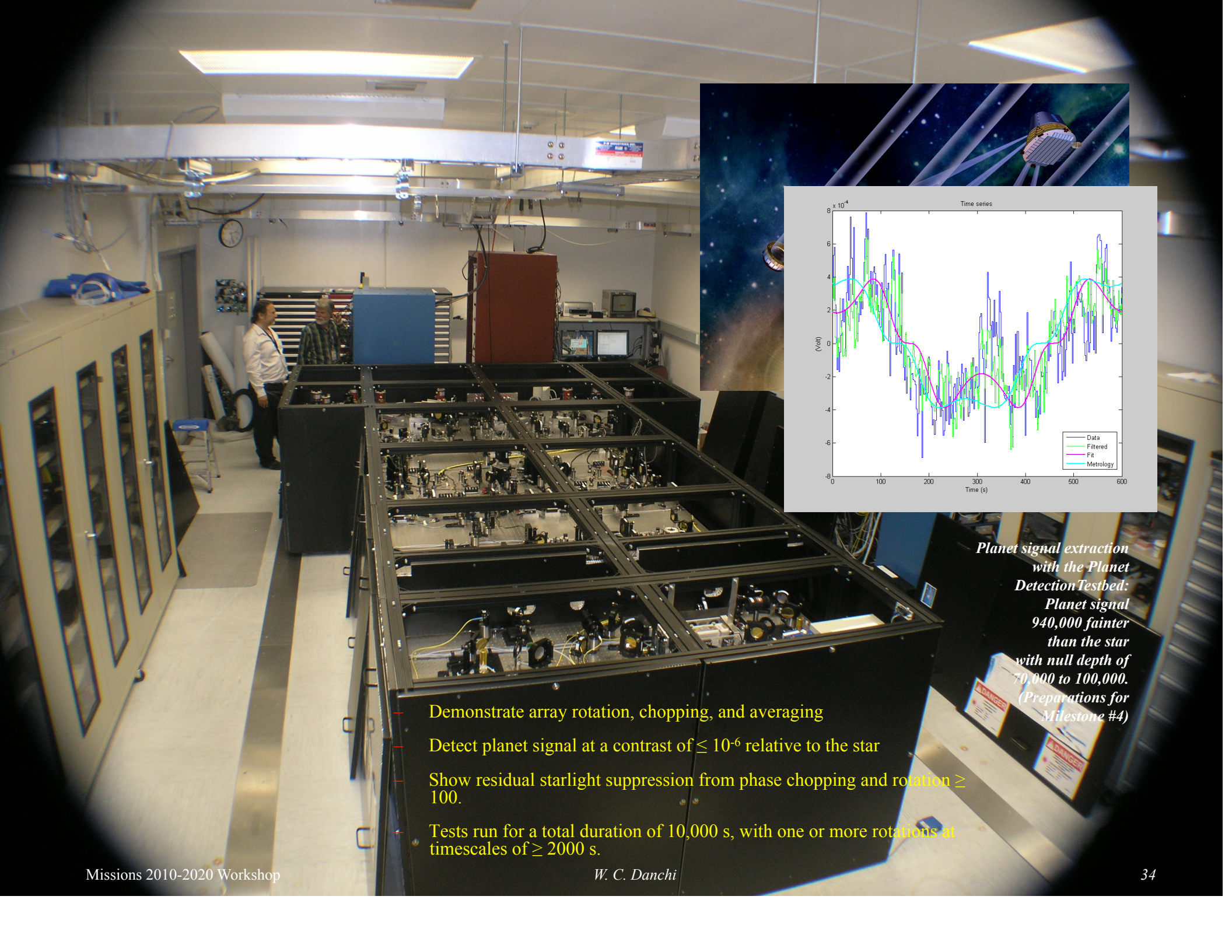
DesMarais et al. (2002)

Technical Readiness for a Small Structurally Connected Interferometer



Item	Description	TRL	Notes
1	Cryocoolers	6	Source: JWST
2	Precision cryogenic structure (booms)	6	Source: JWST
3	Detectors (near-infrared)	6	Source: HST, JWST Nircam
4	Detectors (mid-infrared)	6	Source: Spitzer IRAC, JWST MIRI
5	Cryogenic mirrors	6	Source: JWST
6	Optical fiber for mid-infrared	4	Source: TPF-I
7	Sunshade	6	Source: JWST
8	Nuller Instrument	5	Source: Keck Interferometer Nuller, TPF-I project, LBTI
9	Precision cryogenic delay line	6	Source: ESA Darwin

*Note: The requirement for the FKSI project is a null depth of 10^{-4} in a 10% bandwidth. Laboratory results with the TPF-I testbeds have exceeded this requirement by an order of magnitude (Lawson et al. 2008).



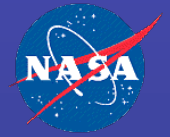
*Planet signal extraction
with the Planet
Detection Testbed:
Planet signal
940,000 fainter
than the star
with null depth of
70,000 to 100,000.
(Preparations for
Milestone #4)*

Demonstrate array rotation, chopping, and averaging

Detect planet signal at a contrast of $\leq 10^{-6}$ relative to the star

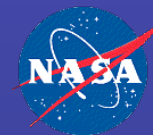
Show residual starlight suppression from phase chopping and rotation ≥ 100 .

Tests run for a total duration of 10,000 s, with one or more rotations at timescales of ≥ 2000 s.



Some Conclusions

Ground-based interferometry



Keck Interferometer

- Protoplanetary disk studies (T Tauri & Herbig Ae/Be stars)
- Debris Disks Around Nearby Stars (Key Science Projects) with limits around 100-200 Solar System Zodis

Large Binocular Telescope Interferometer

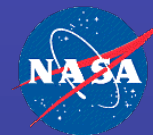
- Debris Disks with lower limits ~ 30 Solar System Zodis

These projects have been essential to the development of the nulling technique and they will produce important near-term results.



Technology Development for the Large Mission

- Some additional work needs to be done on the warm testbeds to get to 10^{-5} null depth requirement, but we are quite close (about 20% above the requirement).
- Cryogenic testing of optical fibers
- Formation flying demonstrations in space



TPF Interferometer Technology

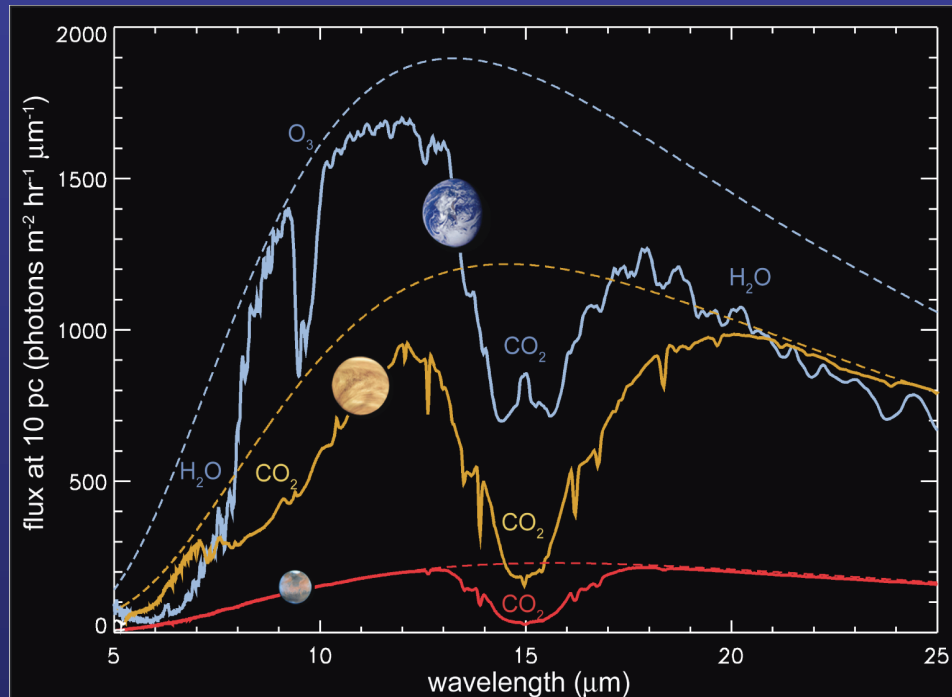
Peter R. Lawson

January 5, 2009

Technology for a Mid-IR Interferometer



- Science Requirements
- Architecture trade studies



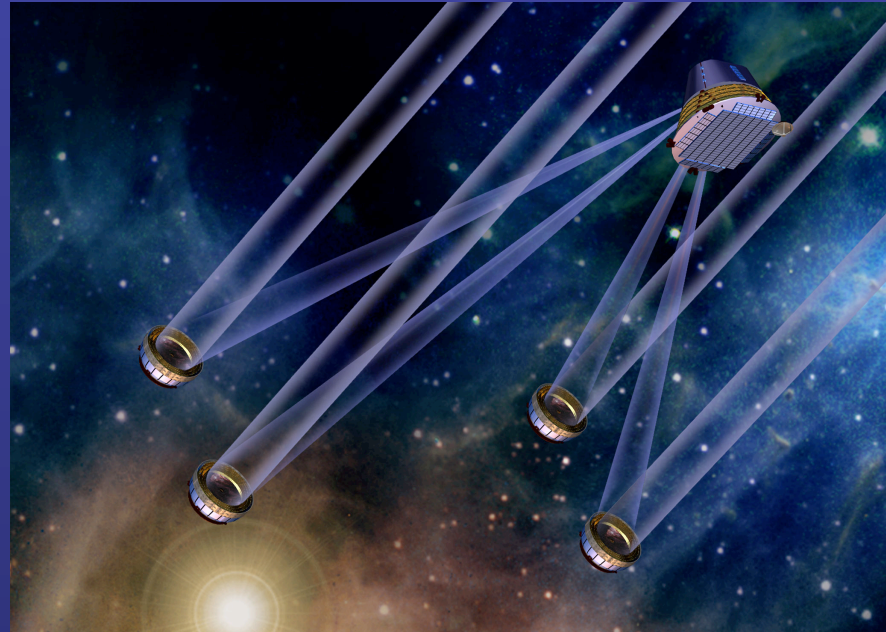
- Starlight suppression
 - Null depth & bandwidth
 - Null stability
- Formation flying
 - Formation control
 - Formation sensing
 - Propulsion systems
- Cryogenic systems
 - Active components
 - Cryogenic structures
 - Passive cooling
 - Cryocoolers
- Integrated Modeling
 - Model validation and testbeds

Terrestrial Planet Finder Interferometer



Salient Features

- Formation Flying Mid-IR nulling Interferometer
- Starlight suppression to and 10^{-5} (mid-IR)
- Heavy launch vehicles
- L2 baseline orbit
- 5 year mission life (10 year goal)
- Potential collaboration with European Space Agency



Science Goals

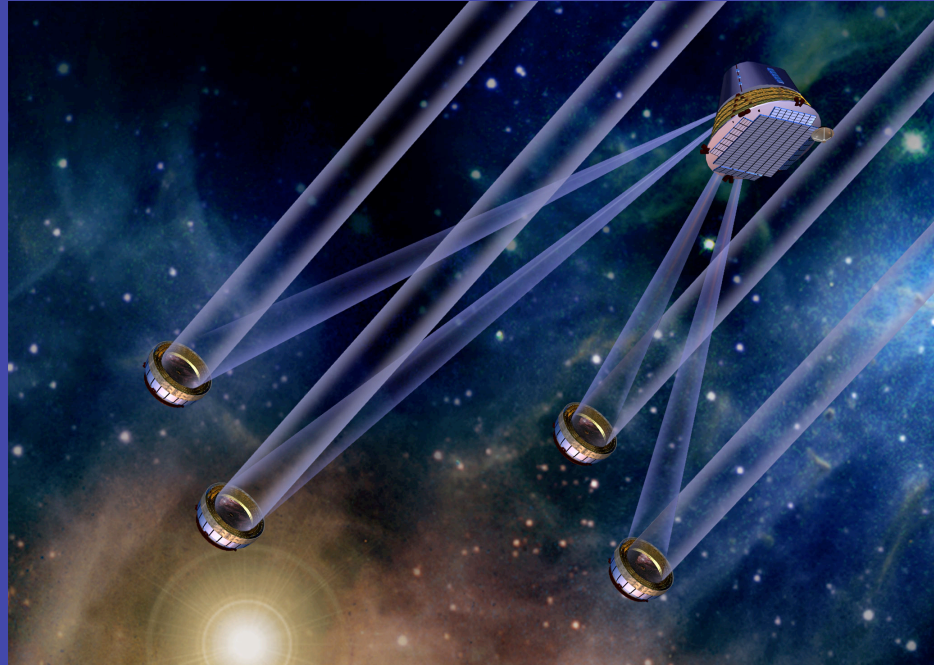
- Detect as many as possible Earth-like planets in the “habitable zone” of nearby stars via their reflected light or thermal emission
- Characterize physical properties of detected Earth-like planets (size, orbital parameters, albedo, presence of atmosphere) and make low resolution spectral observations looking for evidence of a *habitable* planet and bio-markers such as O_2 , O_3 , CO_2 , CH_4 and H_2O
- Detect and characterize the components of nearby planetary systems including disks, terrestrial planets, giant planets and multiple planet systems
- Perform general astrophysics investigations as capability and time permit

Terrestrial Planet Finder Interferometer



Salient Features

- Formation flying mid-IR nulling Interferometer
- Starlight suppression to 10^{-5}
- Heavy launch vehicle
- L2 baseline orbit
- 5 year mission life (10 year goal)
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Science Goals

- Detect as many as possible Earth-like planets in the habitable zone of nearby stars via their thermal emission
- Characterize physical properties of detected Earth-like planets (size, orbital parameters, presence of atmosphere) and make low resolution spectral observations looking for evidence of a *habitable* planet and bio-markers such as O_2 , CO_2 , CH_4 and H_2O
- Detect and characterize the components of nearby planetary systems including disks, terrestrial planets, giant planets and multiple planet systems
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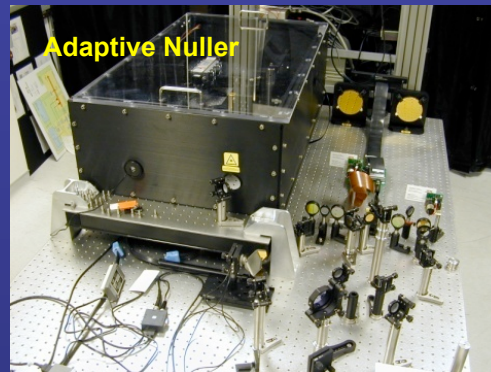
Accomplished Milestones

Milestone #1: Phase compensation better than 5 nm RMS, with intensity compensation better than 0.2% was demonstrated with the Adaptive Nuller. (24 July 2007)

Milestone #2: Guidance navigation and control algorithms for a formation of two telescopes were demonstrated with traceability to flight in a ground-based robotic testbed. (16 January 2008)

Milestone #3: Mid-infrared nulling of $< 10^{-5}$ over a 25% bandwidth (32%) were demonstrated with three 6-hour experiments using the Adaptive Nuller. (Pending review February 2009)

Mid-IR laser and broadband nulling results have exceeded flight requirements.



"TPF-I Milestone #1 Report: Amplitude and Phase Control Demonstration," Edited by R.D. Peters, P.R. Lawson, and O.P. Lay
JPL Document 3839, 24 July 24 2007

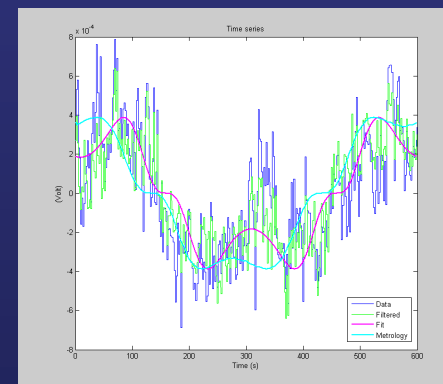


"TPF-I Technology Milestone #2 Report: Formation Control Performance Demonstration," Edited by D.P. Scharf and P.R. Lawson
JPL Document 43009, 16 January 2008

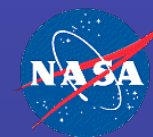
Future Milestones

Milestone #4: Laboratory demonstration of planet signal extraction with chopping, array rotation, and averaging (Whitepaper signed, 6 May 2008)

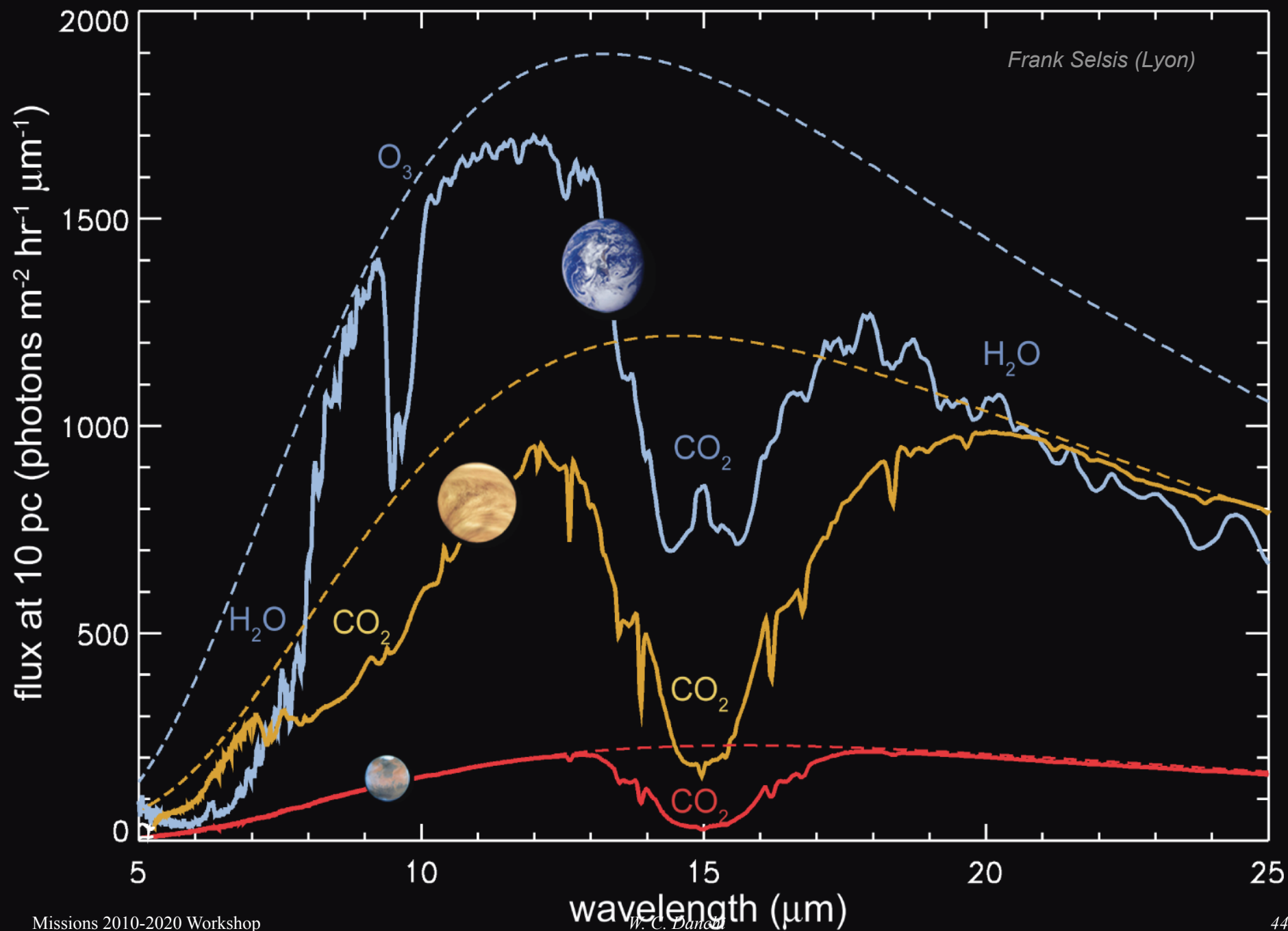
Milestone #5: Laboratory demonstration of planet signal extraction with spectral filtering and instability noise suppression. (Whitepaper June 2009)



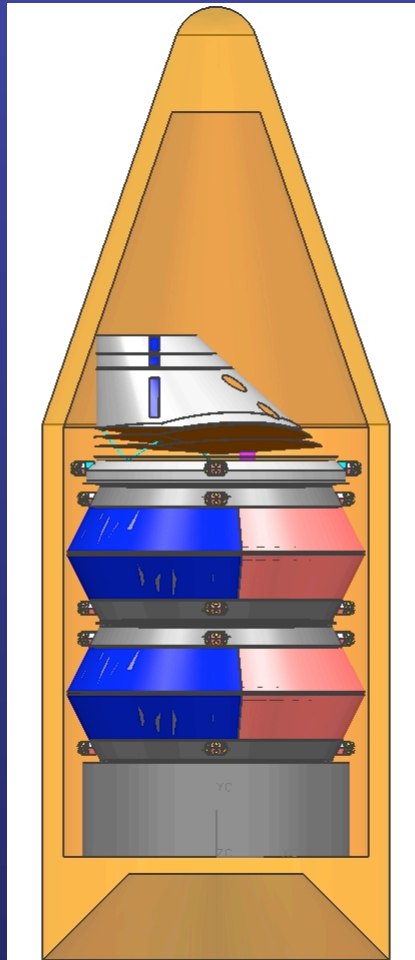
Interferometer Technology Metrics



Technology	Specs	Performance to date	Performance target prior to Phase A	Flight Performance (preliminary)
Nulling	Average null depth	9.3×10^{-6} (32% BW) Milestone #3 5×10^{-7} (Laser)	1.0×10^{-5}	1.0×10^{-5}
	Intensity control	0.09% Milestone #1	0.2%	0.13%
	Phase control	4.4 nm Milestone #1	5.0 nm	1.5 nm
	Stability timescale	21,600 s Milestone #1	5,000 s	> 50,000 s
	Bandwidth	8.4-11.6 μm (32%) Milestone #1	8.3 to 10.7 μm (25%)	7 to 17 μm
Formation Flying	Number of S/C	2 Robots	3 Robots	5 S/C
	Relative control	1.4 - 4.6 cm range, 1σ (formation rotation) Milestone #2	5 cm range, 1σ (formation rotation)	2 cm range



TPF-I Mass estimates and launch packaging



*Inspired by a design by
Thales Alenia Space*

- 3 m design = 6900 kg (w 30% reserve)
- Mass saving of 30% over previous design
- Compatible with medium lift LV
 - Delta IV M+
 - Ariane 5 ECA
- Scaling to smaller diameters
 - 3.0 m 6900 kg
 - 2.0 m 4800 kg
 - 1.5 m 4100 kg
 - 1.0 m 3700 kg

ExoPTF Detailed Findings – Nulling IR Interferometer

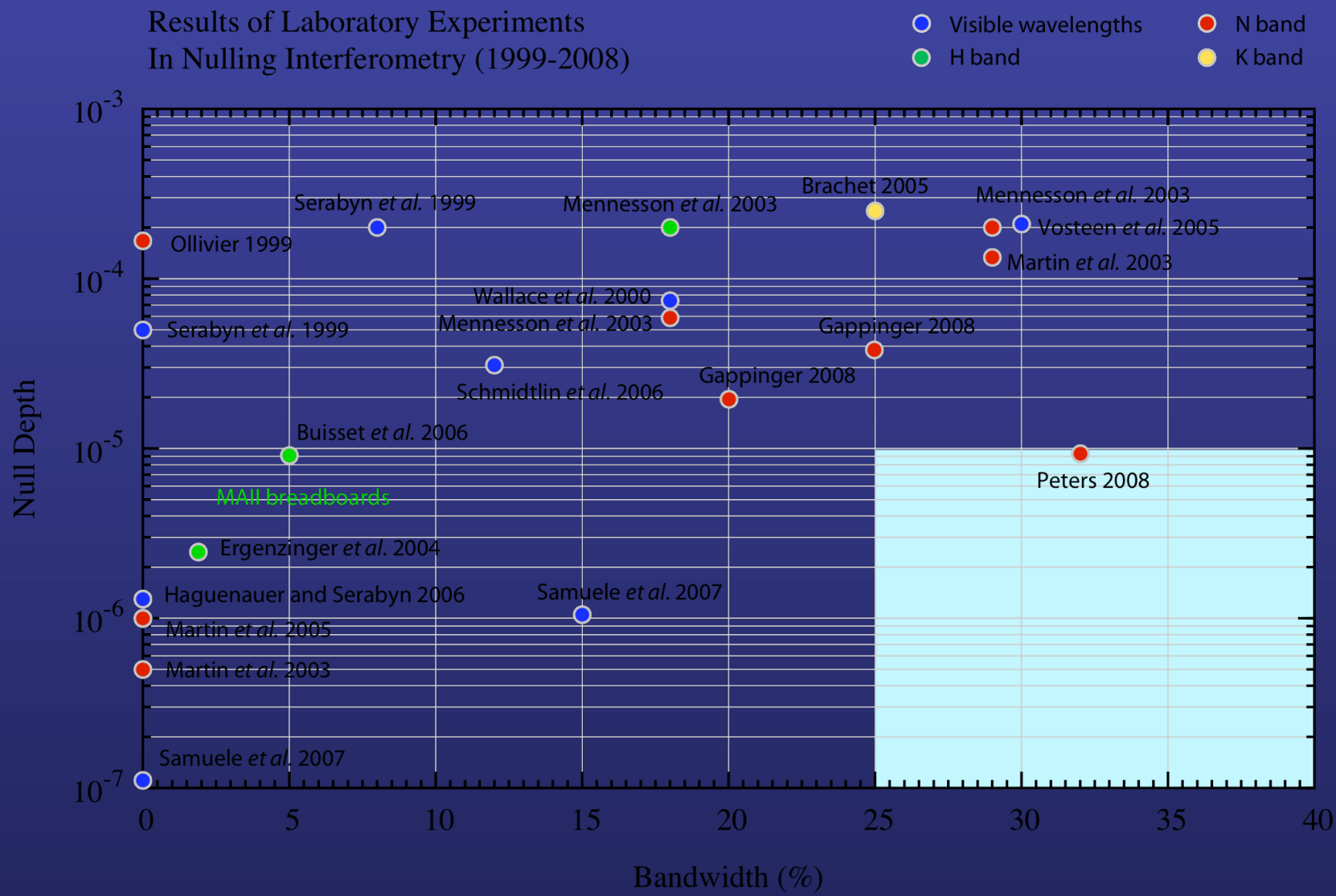


Since direct detection, either by visible-light coronagraph or infrared interferometer, is the only means to assess Earth-like planet habitability, the decision of which one to fly first should be based on cost and technology readiness at a time when one of the two concepts is ready for implementation. The following actions are therefore recommended :

▪ **Detailed Recommendations on nulling interferometry**

- The ongoing efforts to characterize the typical level of exozodiacal light around Sun-like stars with ground-based nulling interferometry should be continued.
- A vigorous technology program, including component development, integrated testbeds, and end-to-end modeling, should be carried out in the areas of formation flying and mid-infrared nulling, with the goal of enabling a nulling interferometry mission around the end of the next decade.
- The fruitful collaboration with European groups on mission concepts and relevant technologies should be continued.

State of the Art in Nulling Interferometry

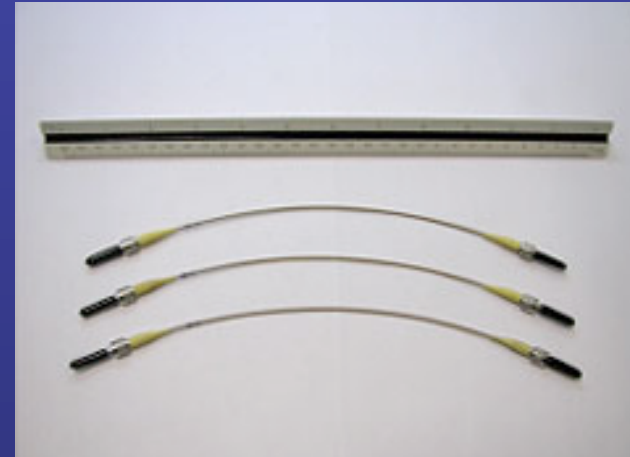


Single-Mode Mid-Infrared Fibers



- **Chalcogenide Fibers (NRL)**

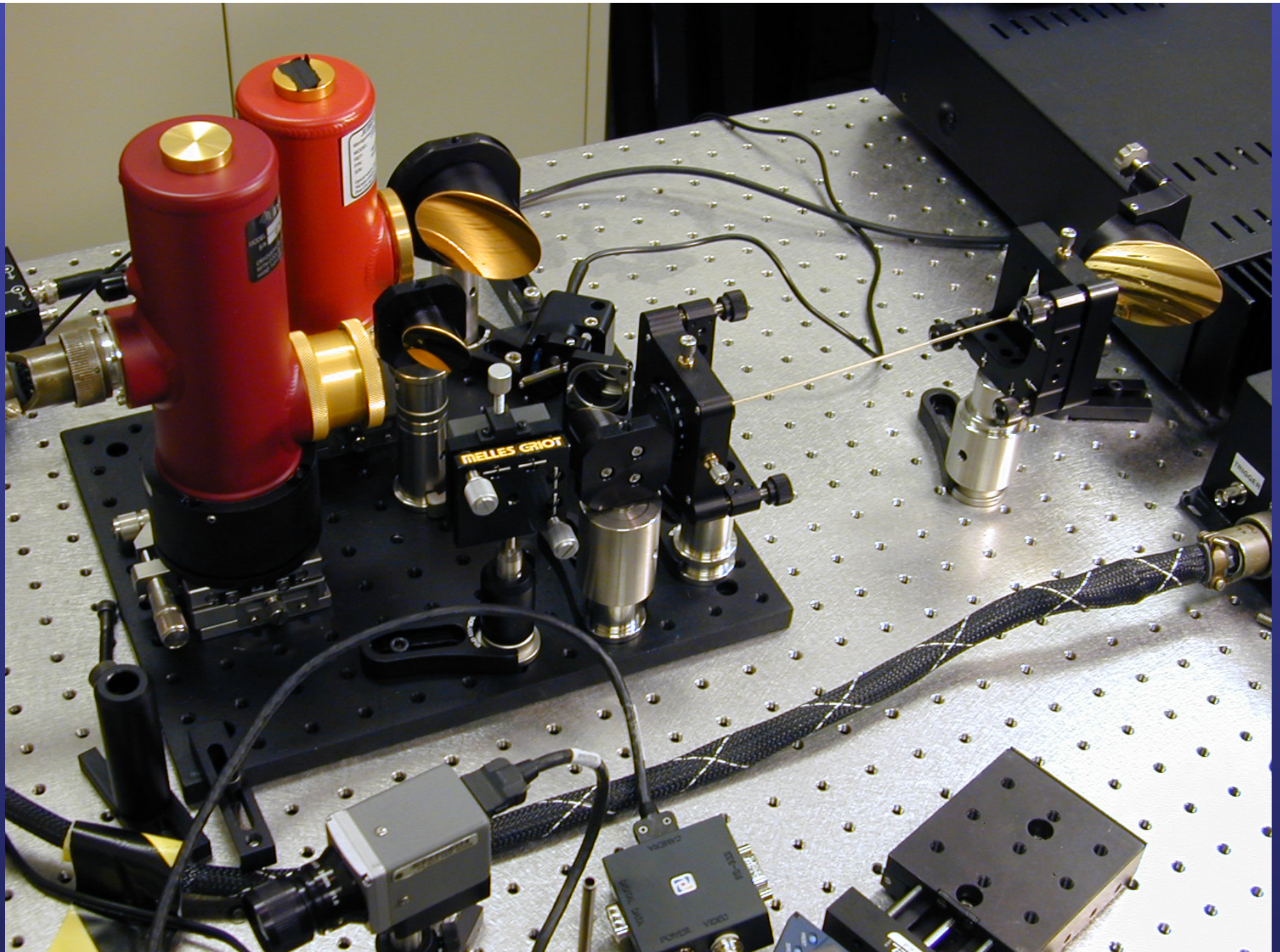
- A. Ksendzov et al., “Characterization of mid-infrared single mode fibers as modal filters,” *Applied Optics* 46, 7957-7962 (2007)
- Transmission losses 8 dB/m
- Suppression of 1000 for higher order modes
- Useable to ~11 microns



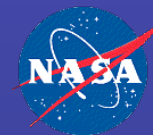
- **Silver-Halide Fibers (Tel Aviv Univ)**

- A. Ksendzov et al. “Modal filtering for mid-infrared nulling interferometry using silver halide fibers,” *Applied Optics* 47, 5728-5735 (2008).
- Transmission losses 12 dB/m
- Suppression of 16000 possible with a 10-20 cm fibre, with aperturing the output.
- Useable to ~18 microns (?)

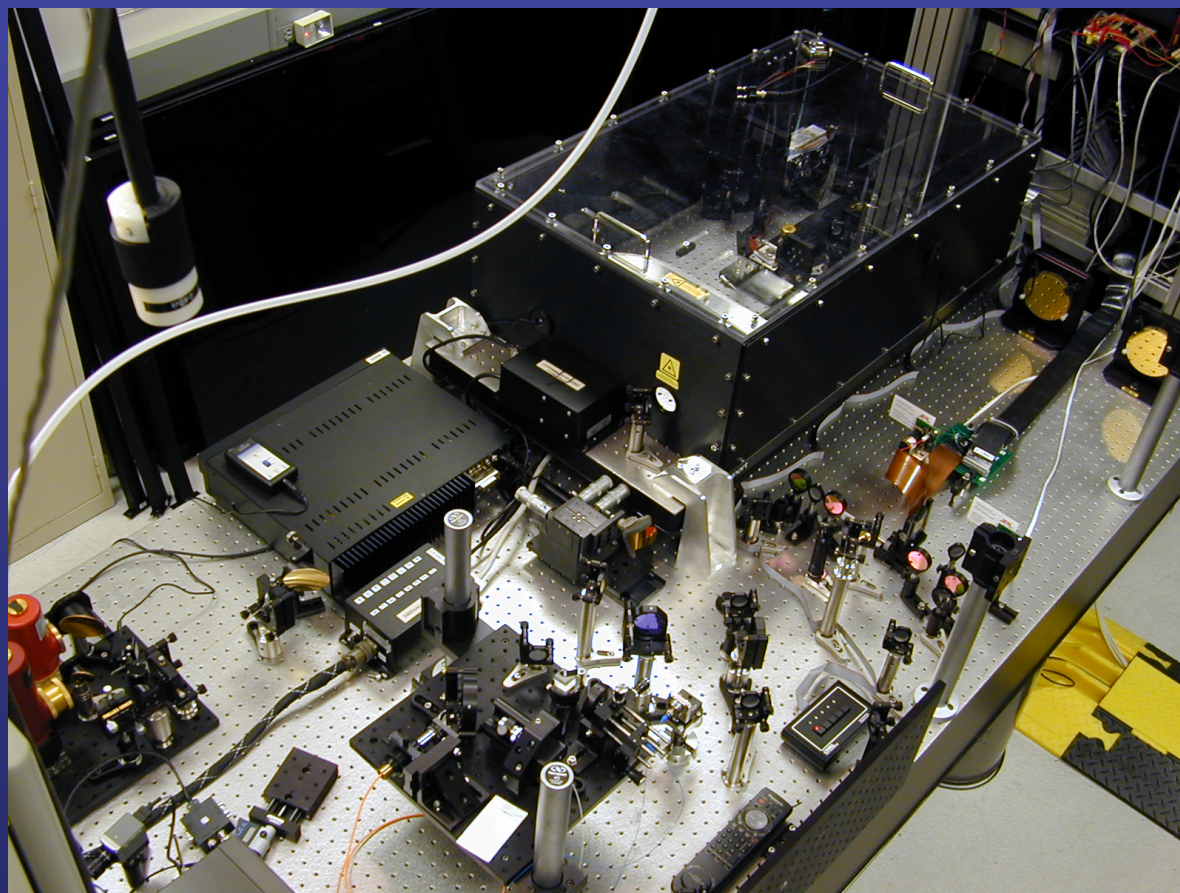
Example Chalcogenide Fibers, produced on contract by the Naval Research Laboratory



TPF-I Milestone #1 and #3: Adaptive Nuller

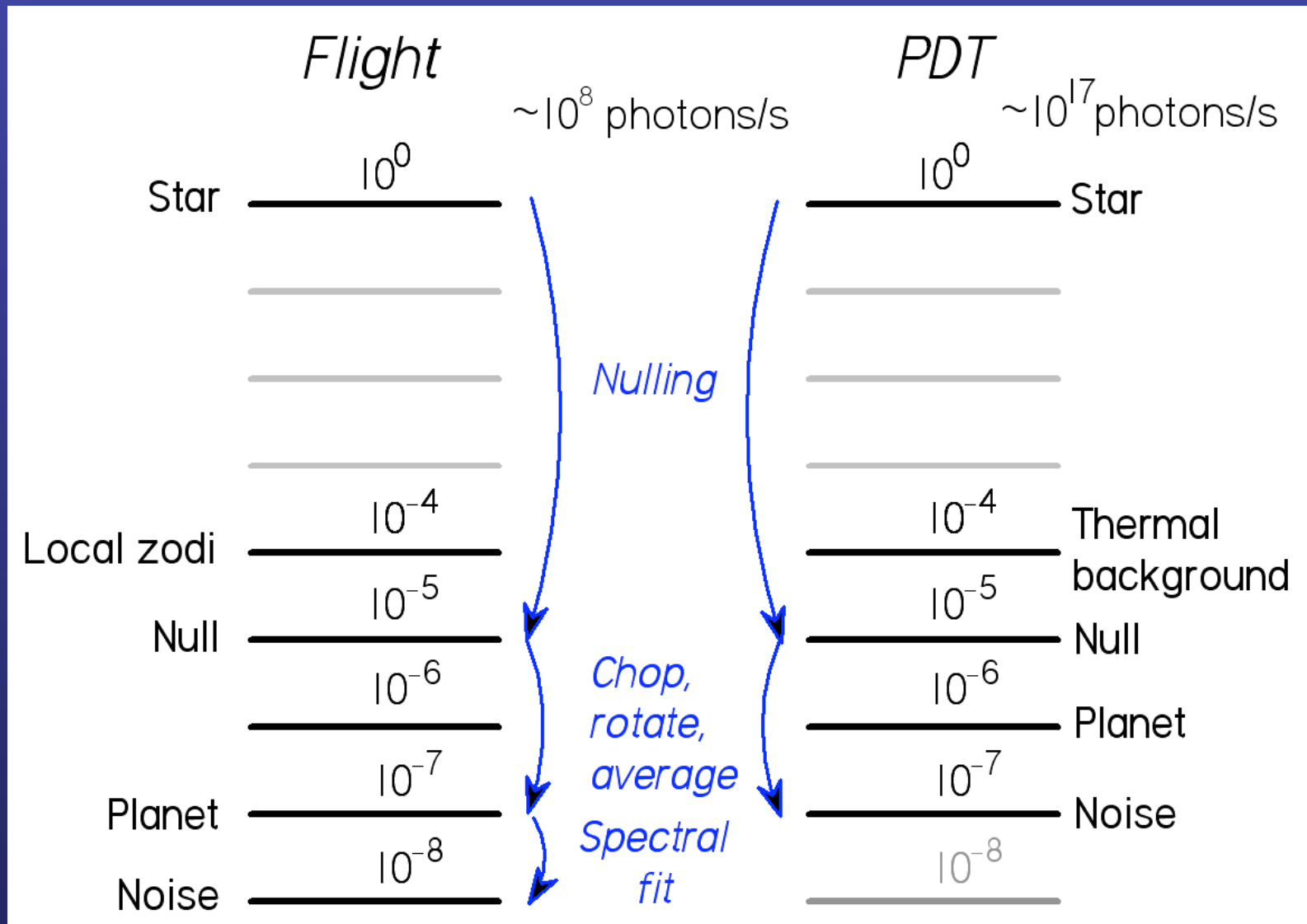


- **TPF-I Milestone #1** completed. The milestone report for the phase and intensity demonstration was approved and signed by NASA HQ, 24 July 2007
 - Demonstrated 0.09% intensity compensation and 4.4 nm phase compensation
- Demonstrated 1.1×10^{-5} mean null depth with a 32% bandwidth, 93% the flight requirements
- TPF-I Milestone #3 whitepaper for broadband nulling demonstration signed 10 October 2007



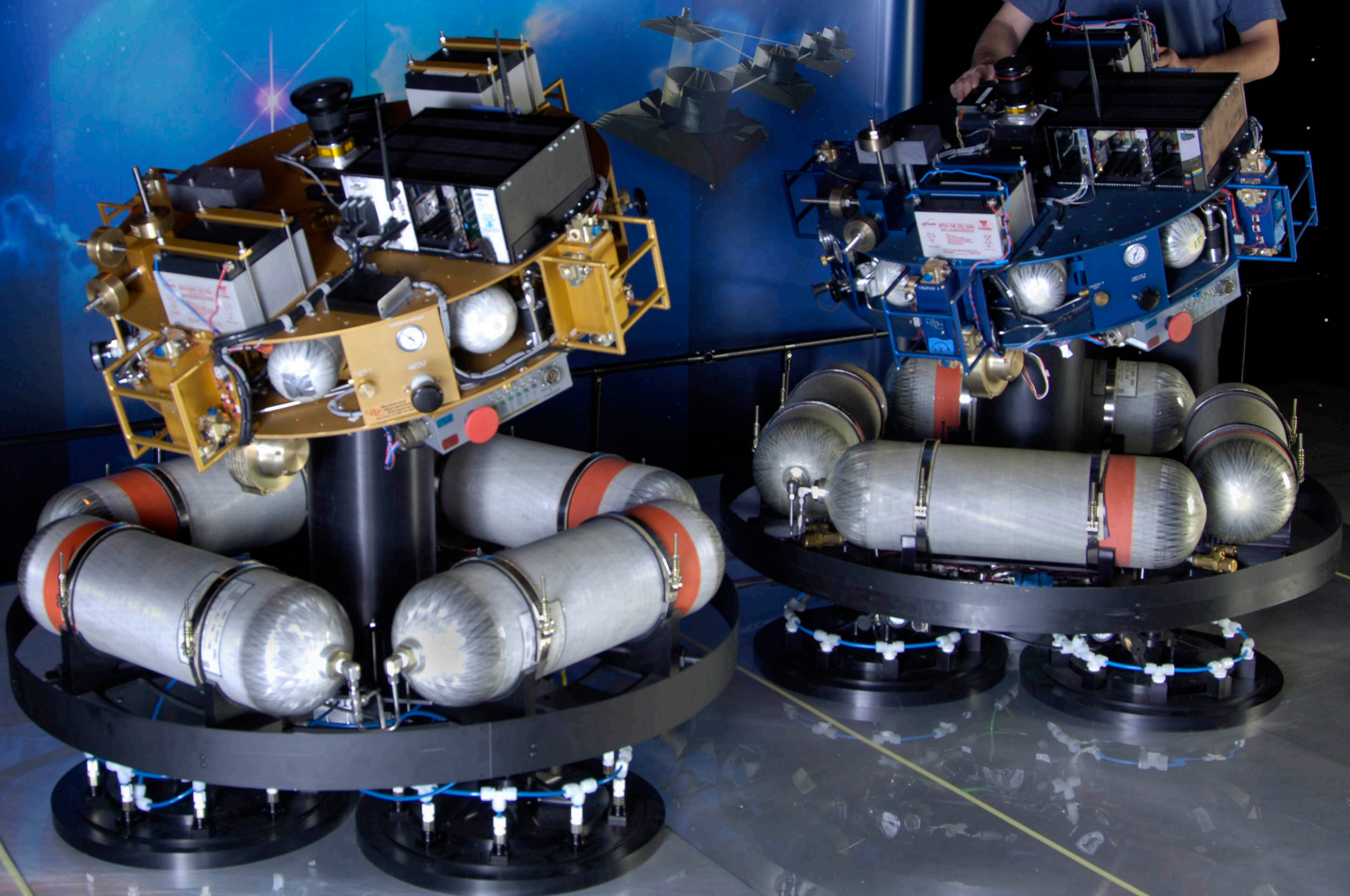
*"Broadband phase and intensity compensation with a deformable mirror for an interferometric nuller,"
R. D. Peters, O. P. Lay and M. Jeganathan
Applied Optics 47, 3920-3926 (2008).*

Chop, Rotate, Average, Spectral Fit

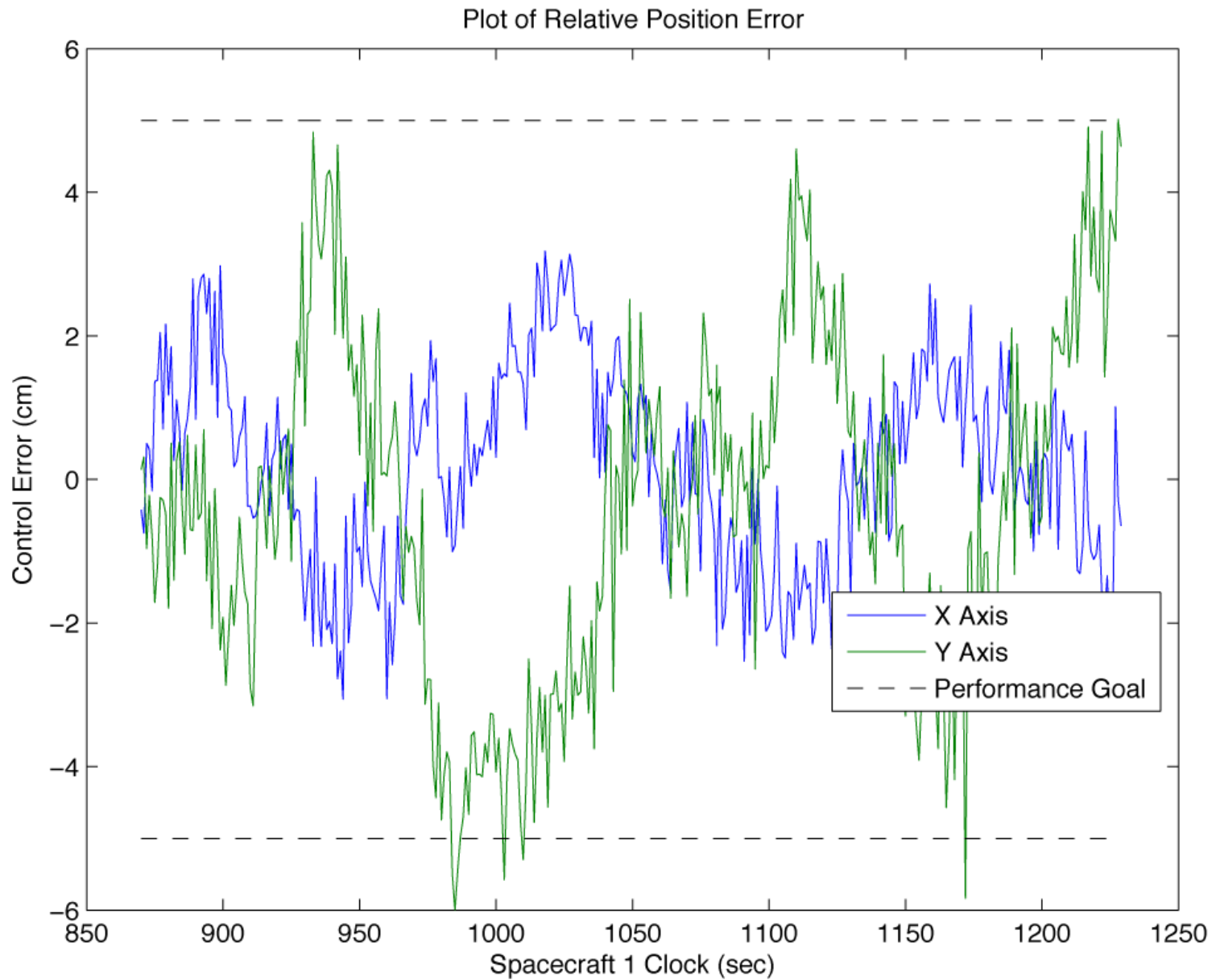




Precision Formation Flying



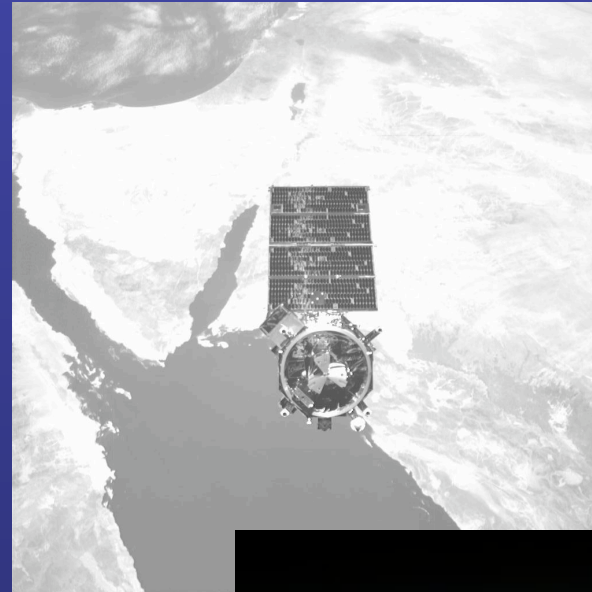
Precision Leader-Follower Maneuver



Recent Advances in Formation Flying



- **Orbital Express (DARPA) May-July 2007**
 - Demonstrated in-orbit servicing of satellites
 - Relative maneuvers of two satellites
 - Transfer of liquids and batteries
- **Autonomous Transfer Vehicle (ESA) April 2008**
 - Unmanned transport to the International Space Station
 - 10.3-m long and 4.5-m diameter
 - GPS, video, and human supervision
 - Two days of demos, and rendezvous and docking
 - 30 September 2008, completed a destructive re-entry



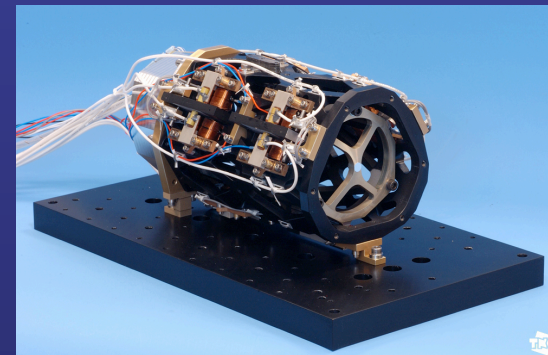
Examples of Darwin Technology



- Infrared Nulling testbeds (ESA)
 - Thales Alenia Space
 - EADS Astrium
 - University of Delft
 - Institut d'Astrophysique Spatiale
- Cryogenic Delay Line (ESA)
 - TNO, The Netherlands
- Integrated Optics and Fiber Optics (ESA)
 - LAOG, Université Joseph Fourier, Grenoble
 - Thales Alenia Space
 - EADS Astrium / TNO
 - Université de Rennes
 - Université de Montpellier
- Breadboard demonstrator for PEGASE (CNES)
- Cryogenic mid-IR testbed, Inst. Astrophysique Spatiale (under design)
- RF Metrology for formation flying (Thales Alenia Space)



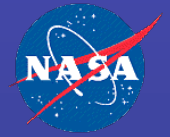
Thales Alenia Space



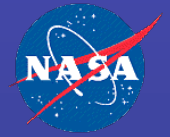
TNO



Inst. Astrophysique Spatiale

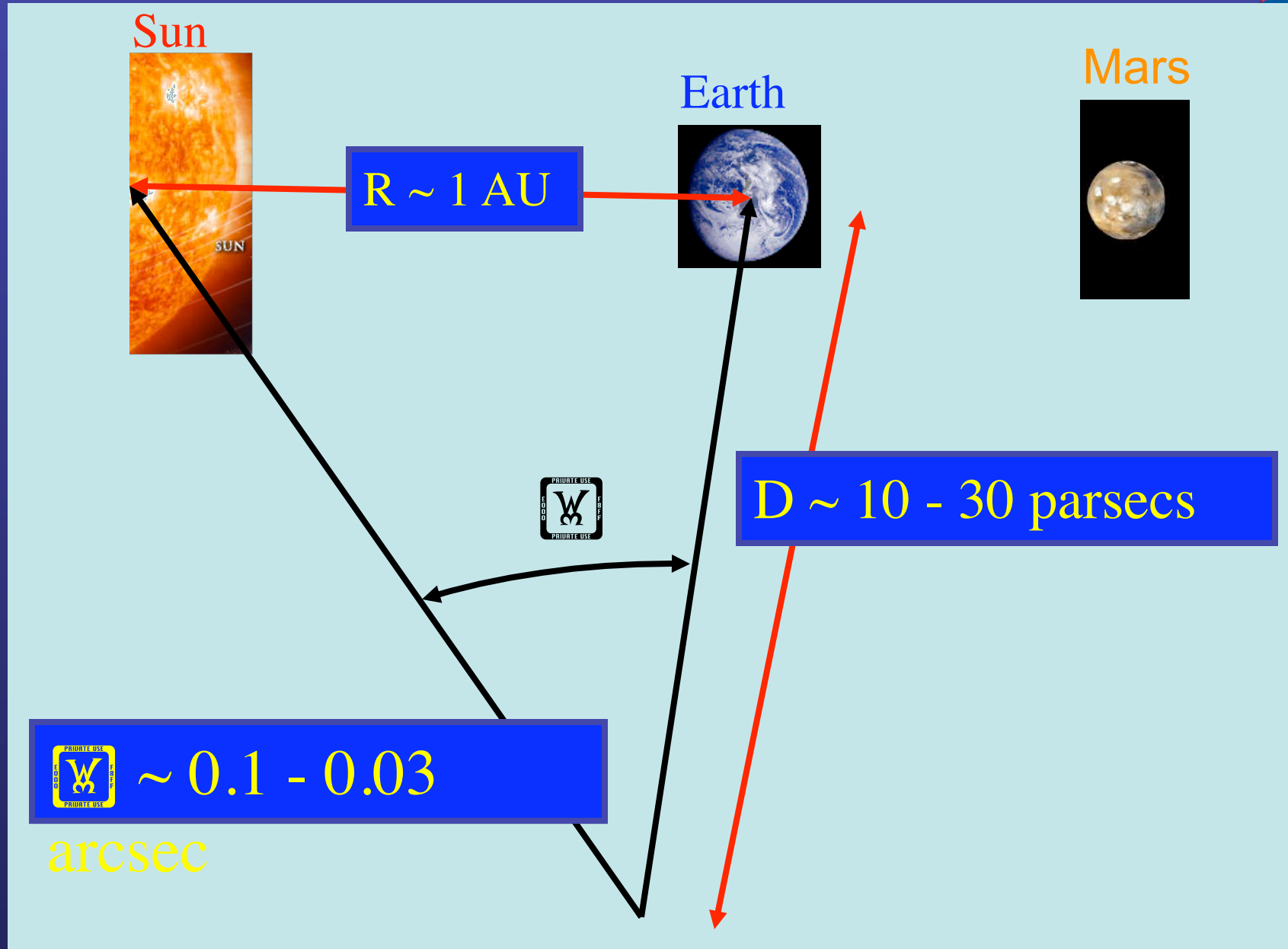


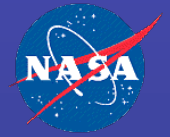
Multi-Aperture Technology



Backup Slides

Why high angular resolution is needed



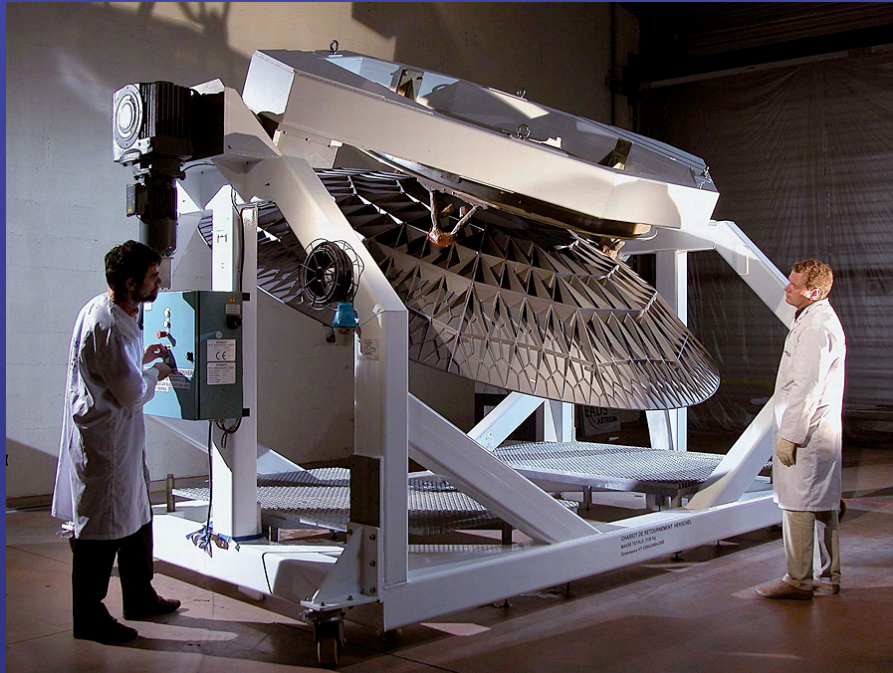


Single-Aperture Technology

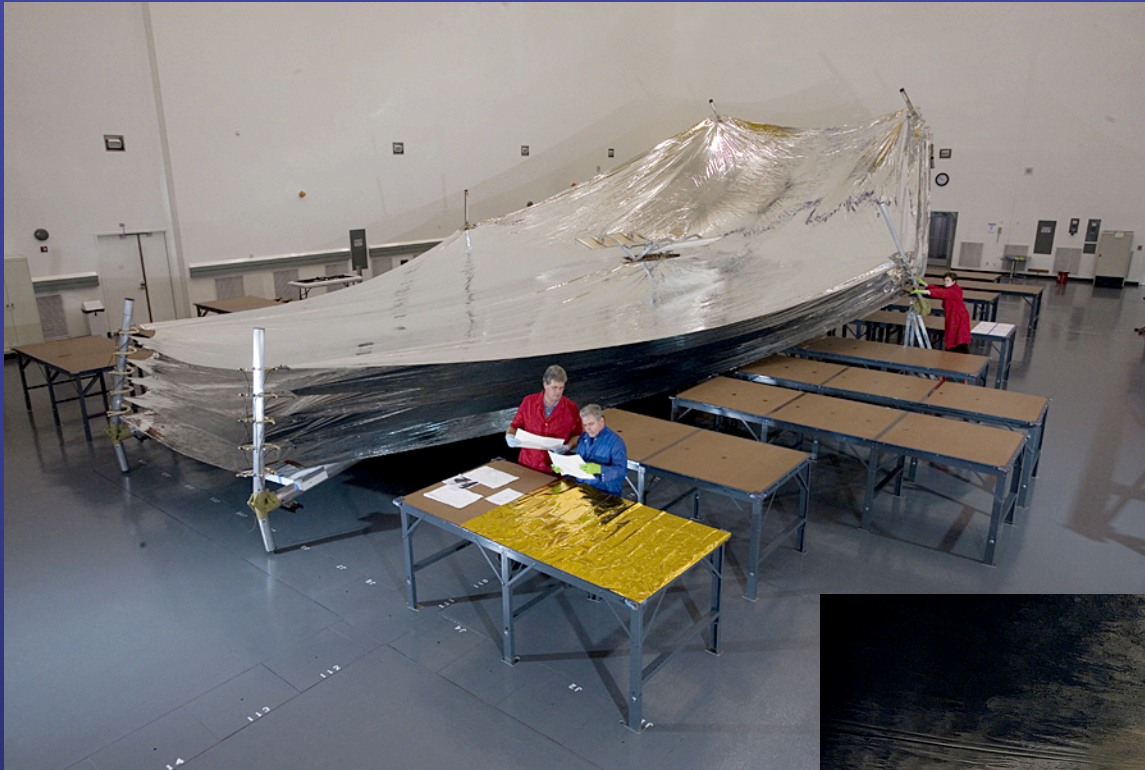
Large Light-Weight Optics



- Herschel Primary Mirror



Passive Cryogenic Cooling



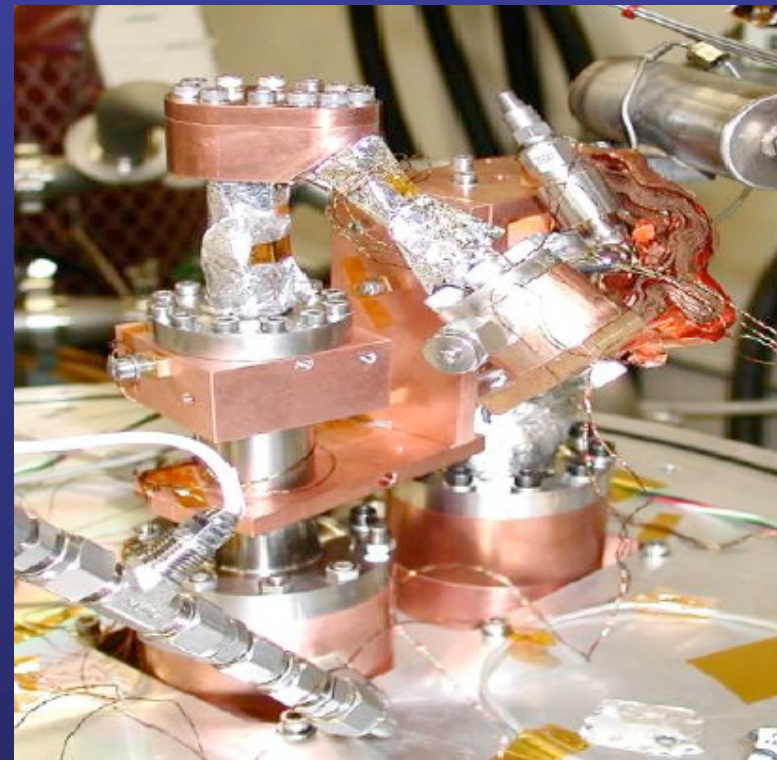
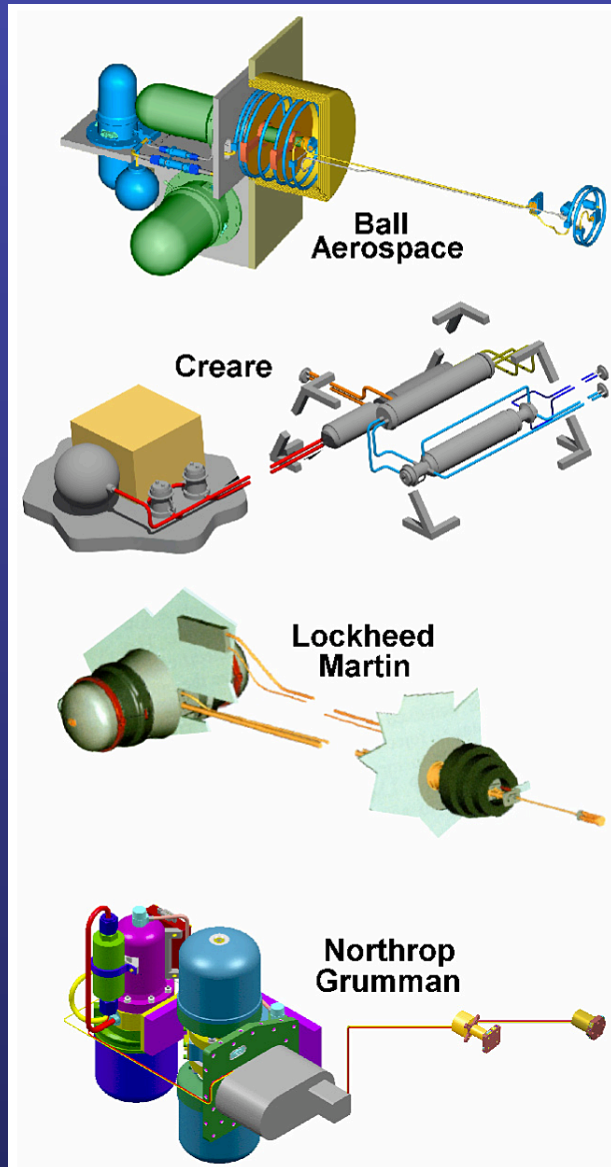
- JWST Sunshield



Cryocoolers

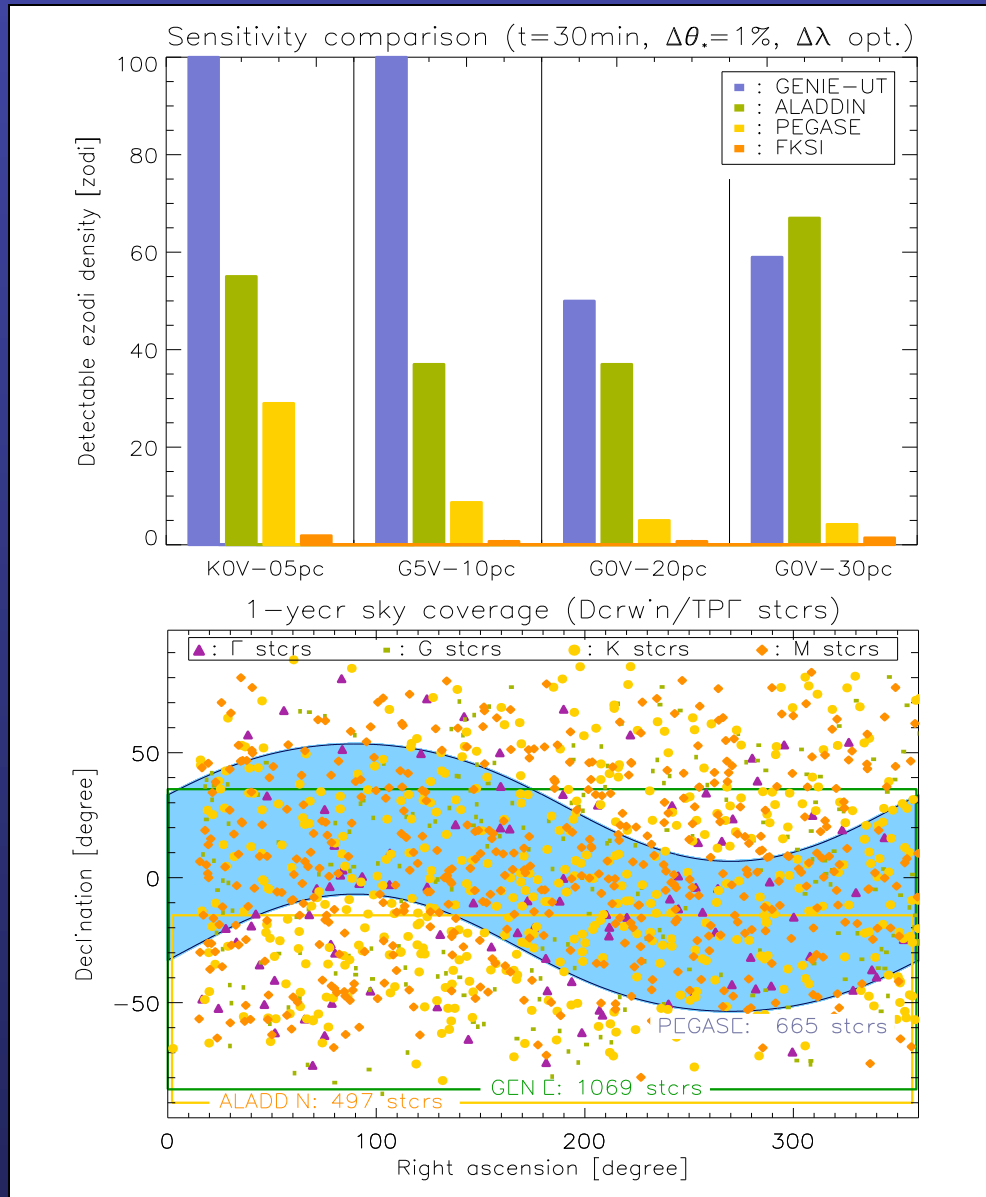


- Advanced Cryocooler Technology Development Program



- JWST Cryocooler (NGST)

Debris Disk Sensitivity



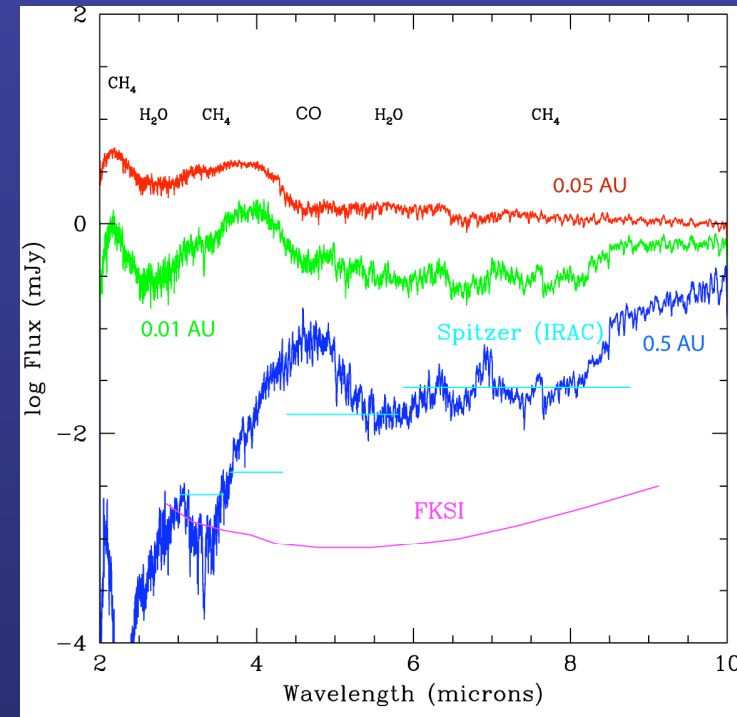
Expected performance for Pegase and FKSI compared to the ground-based instruments (for 30 min integration time and 1% uncertainty on the stellar angular diameters).

Sky coverage after 1 year of observation of GENIE (dark frame), ALADDIN (light frame) and Pegase (shaded area) shown with the Darwin/TPF all sky target catalogue. The blue-shaded area shows the sky coverage of a space-based instrument with an ecliptic latitude in the $[-30^\circ, 30^\circ]$ range (such as Pegase). The sky coverage of FKSI is similar to that of Pegase with an extension of 40° instead of 60° .

Exoplanet Characterization with a Small Structurally Connected Interferometer



Orbital Parameters	What FKS I does:
Removes sin(<i>l</i>) ambiguity	Measure
Planet Characteristics	
Temperature	Measure
Temperature variability due to distance changes	Measure
Planet radius	Measure
Planet mass	Estimate
Planet albedo	Cooperative
Surface gravity	Cooperative
Atmospheric and surface composition	Measure
Time variability of composition	Measure
Presence of water	Measure
Solar System Characteristics	
Influence of other planets, orbit coplanarity	Estimate
Comets, asteroids, zodiacal dust	Measure

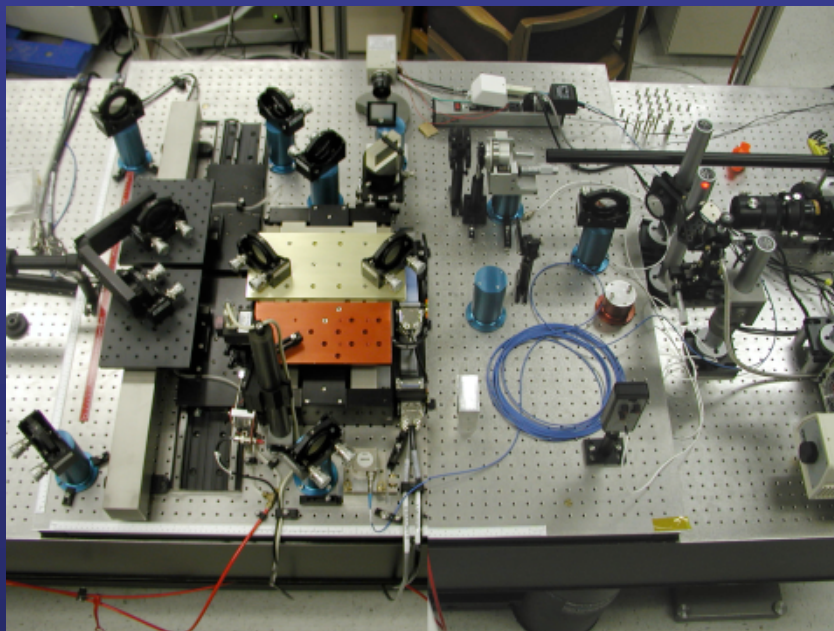


Left panel. Characteristics of exoplanets that can be measured using FKS I. (b) Right panel. The FKS I system can measure the spectra of exoplanets with a wide range of semi-major axes.

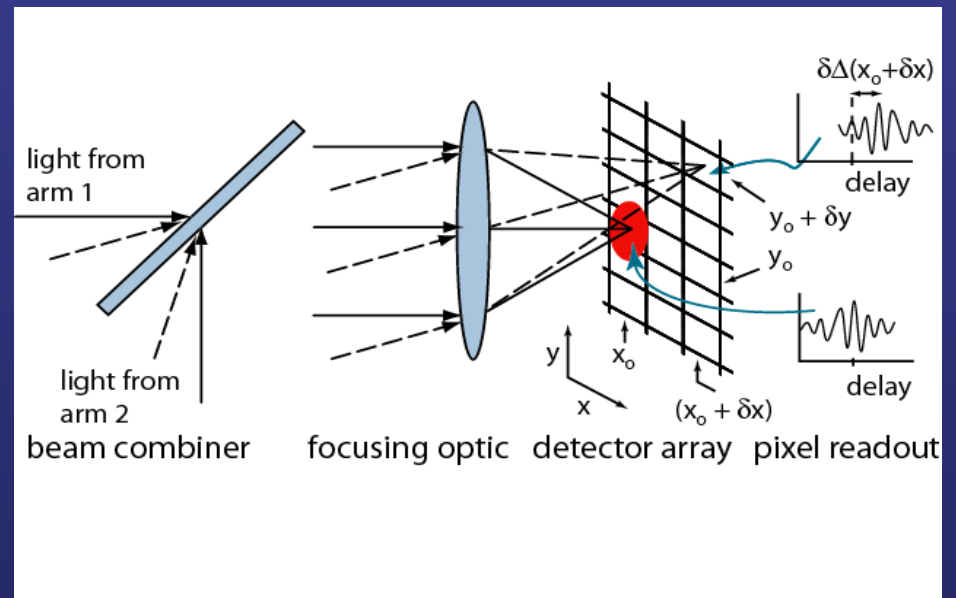
Wide-Field “Double Fourier” Interferometry in the Lab



The **Wide-field Imaging Interferometry Testbed (WIIT)** was built to develop a wide field-of-view optical/IR imaging interferometry technique

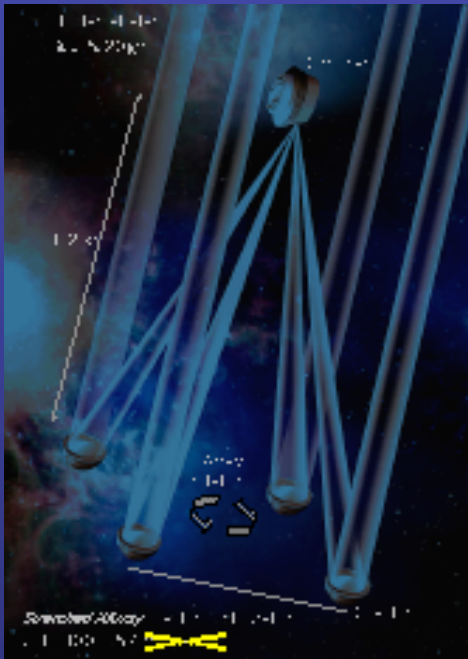


A detector array is substituted for the single-pixel detector used in a conventional Michelson (pupil plane) beam combiner, and a scanning optical delay line is used to provide spectroscopic information and compensate for external delay

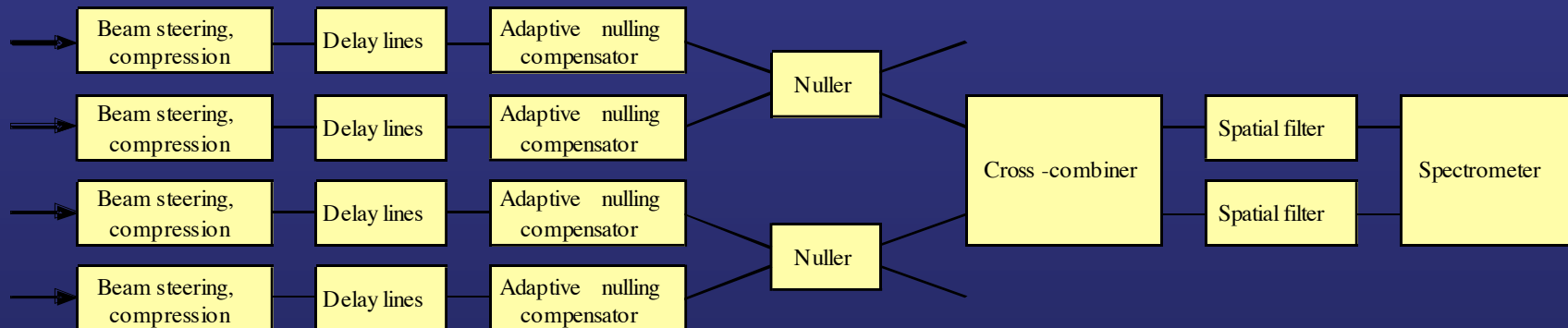




TPF Architecture

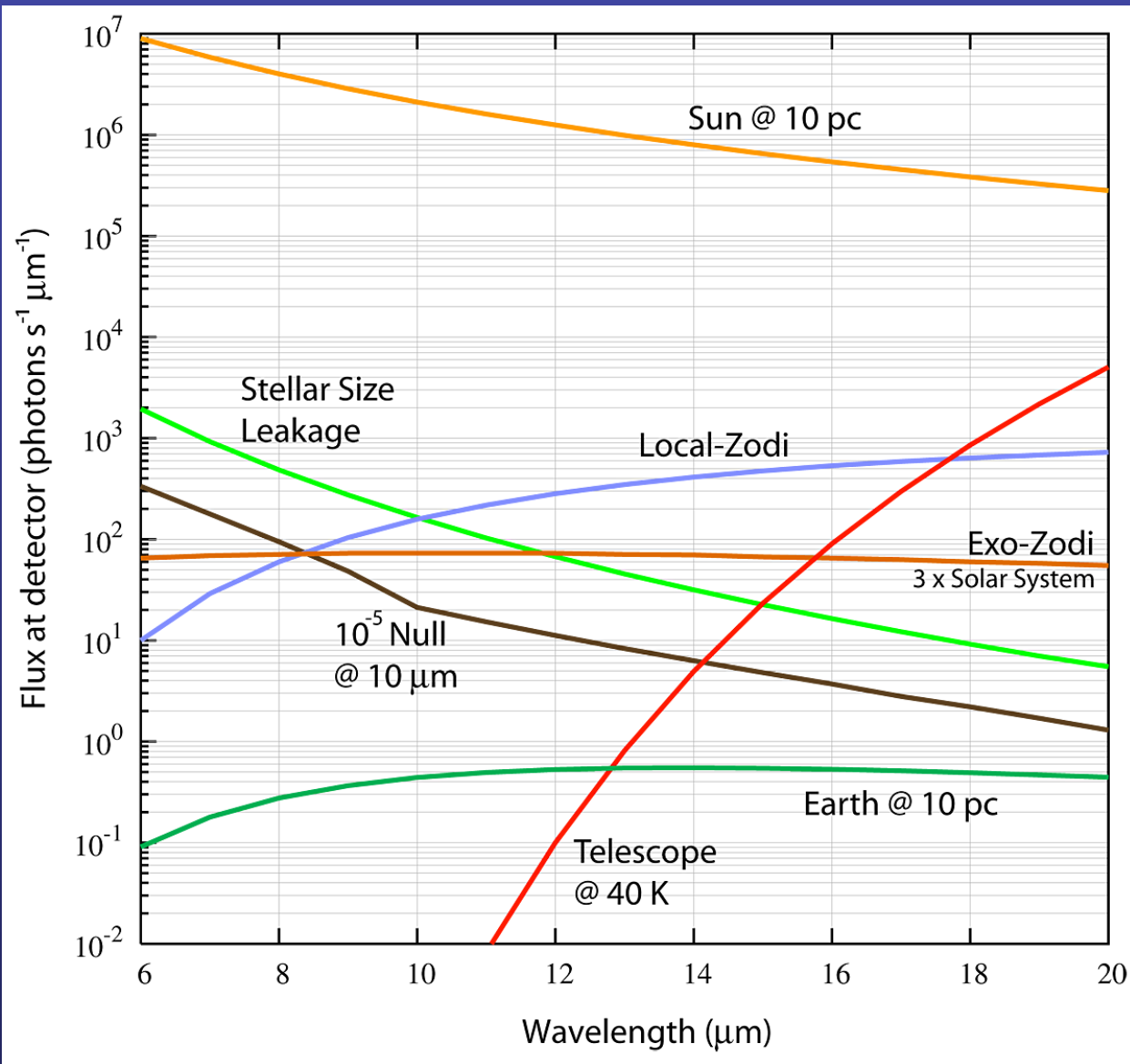
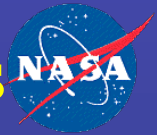


Emma X-Array Architecture
resulted from detailed studies of
the past several years



Schematic of beam combiner optics

Sources of Noise at Mid-Infrared Wavelengths



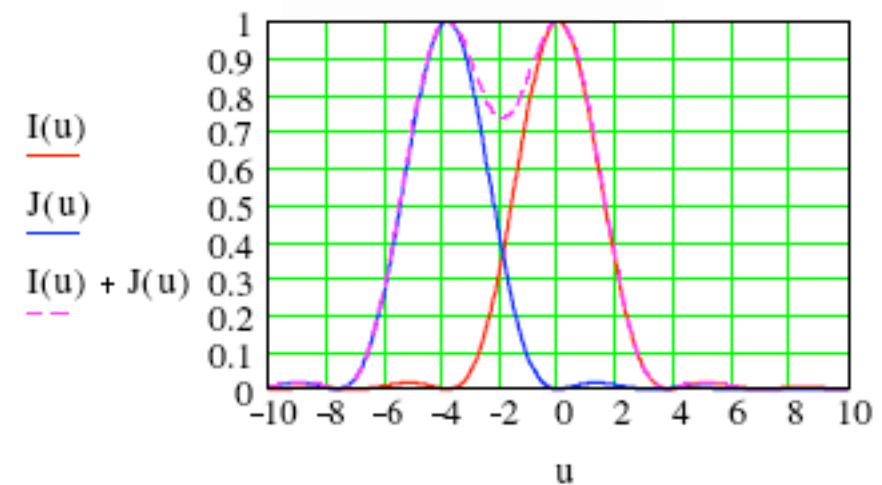
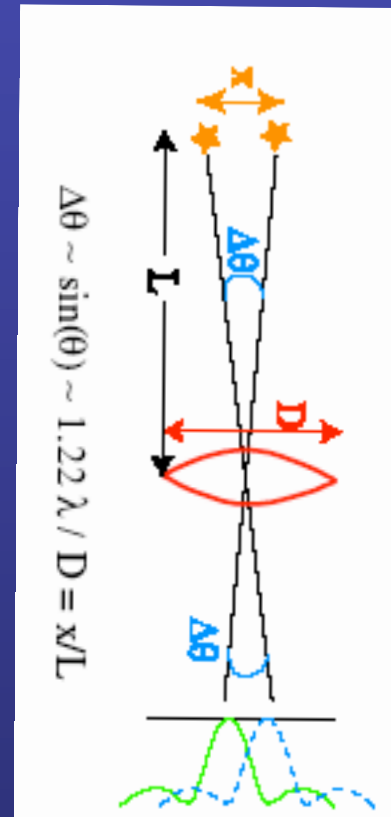
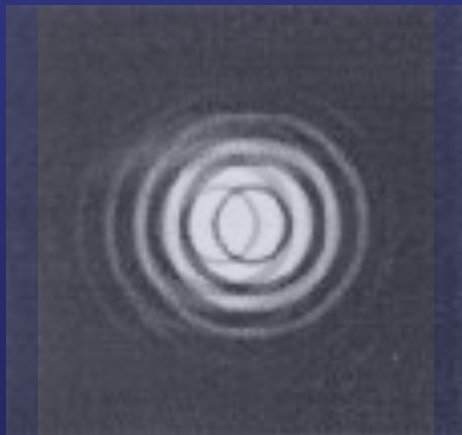


Resolution of a conventional telescope: Rayleigh Criterion

$$\theta \sim 1.22 \lambda / D$$

λ = wavelength of light

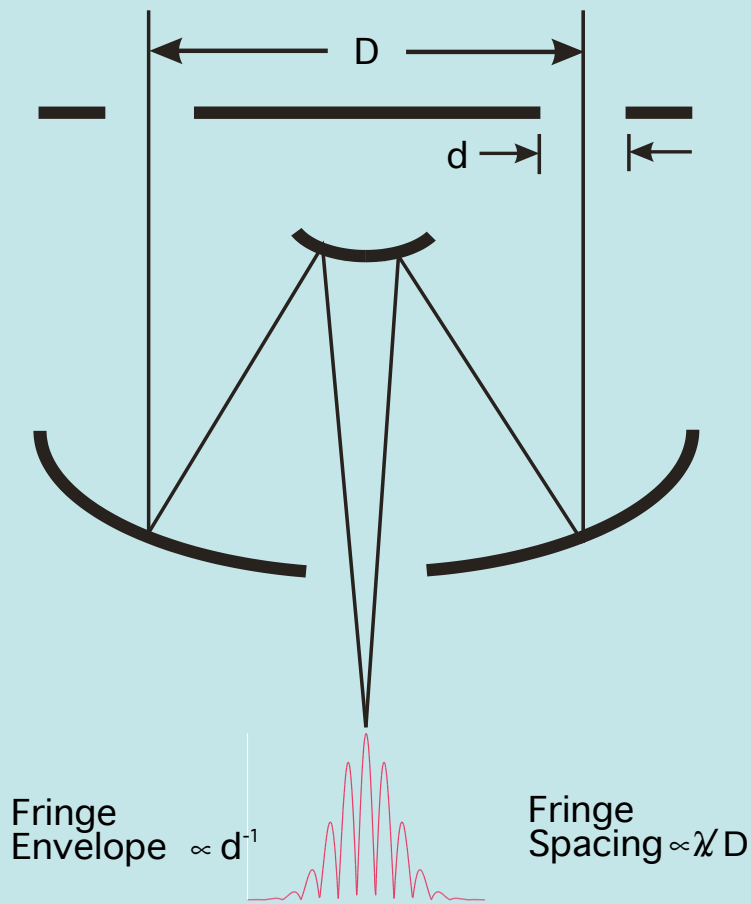
D = telescope diameter



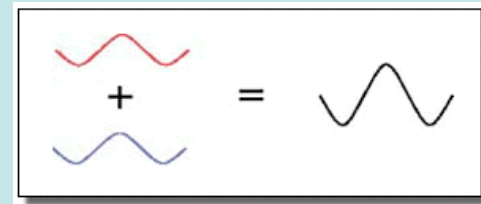


A simple interferometer

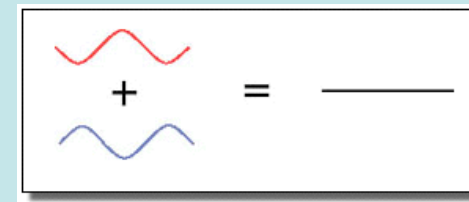
Simplest Interferometer --
Aperture Masking



- You get a peak when pathlengths are equal on both sides -- “white light fringe”



- You get a null when pathlengths differ by one half a wavelength -- a “dark fringe”



Interferometer Resolution



Interferometer Resolution is:

$\lambda / (2B)$ where λ is wavelength and B is the baseline.

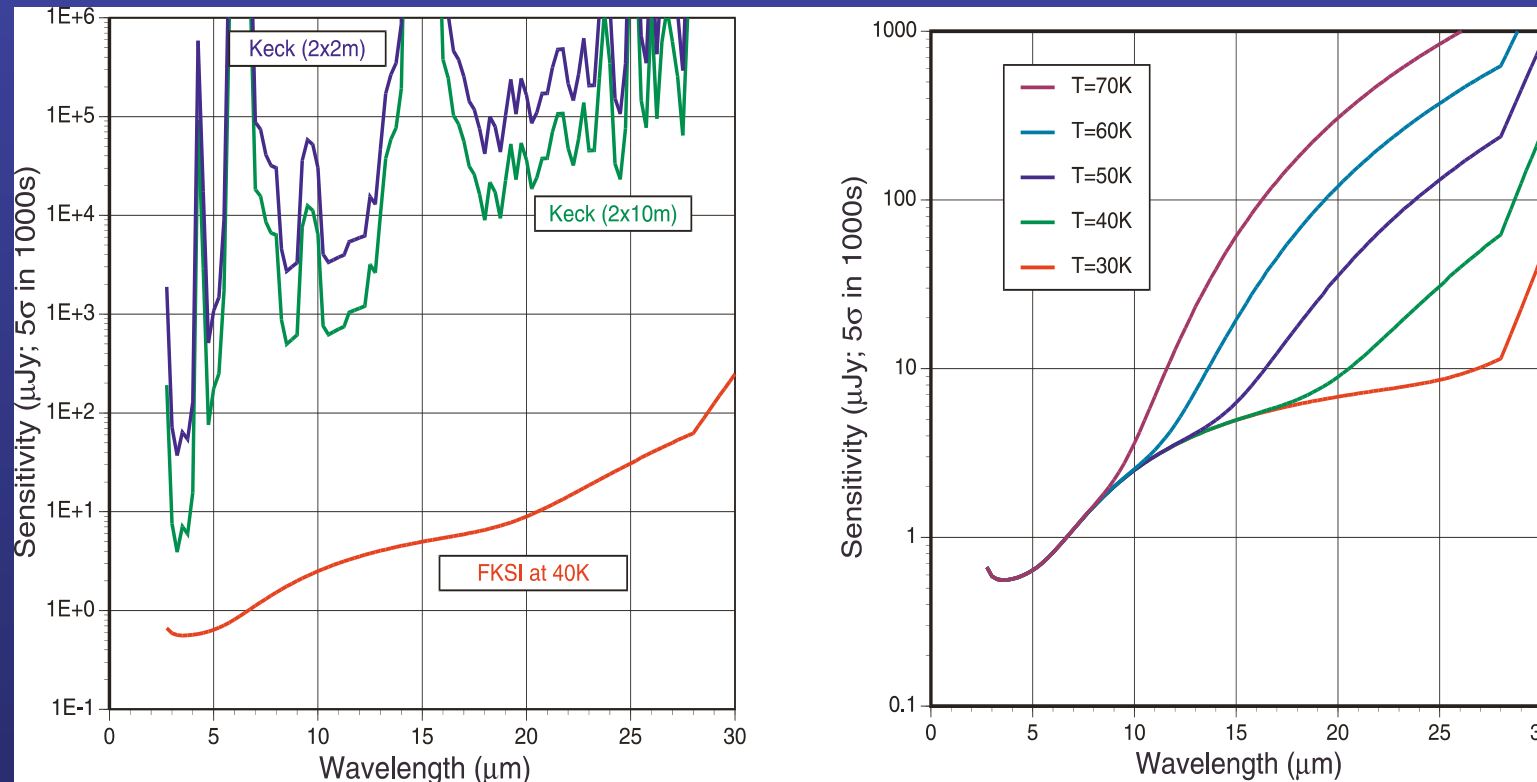
For 100 mas resolution $\rightarrow B = 10 \text{ m}$ at $10 \mu\text{m}$

10 mas resolution $\rightarrow B = 100 \text{ m}$ at $10 \mu\text{m}$

This sets the minimum baseline size.

A 20-40 m baseline at $10 \mu\text{m}$ is adequate resolution for a substantial number of nearby F,G,K, stars, or 1/2 that if the center wavelength is $5 \mu\text{m}$.

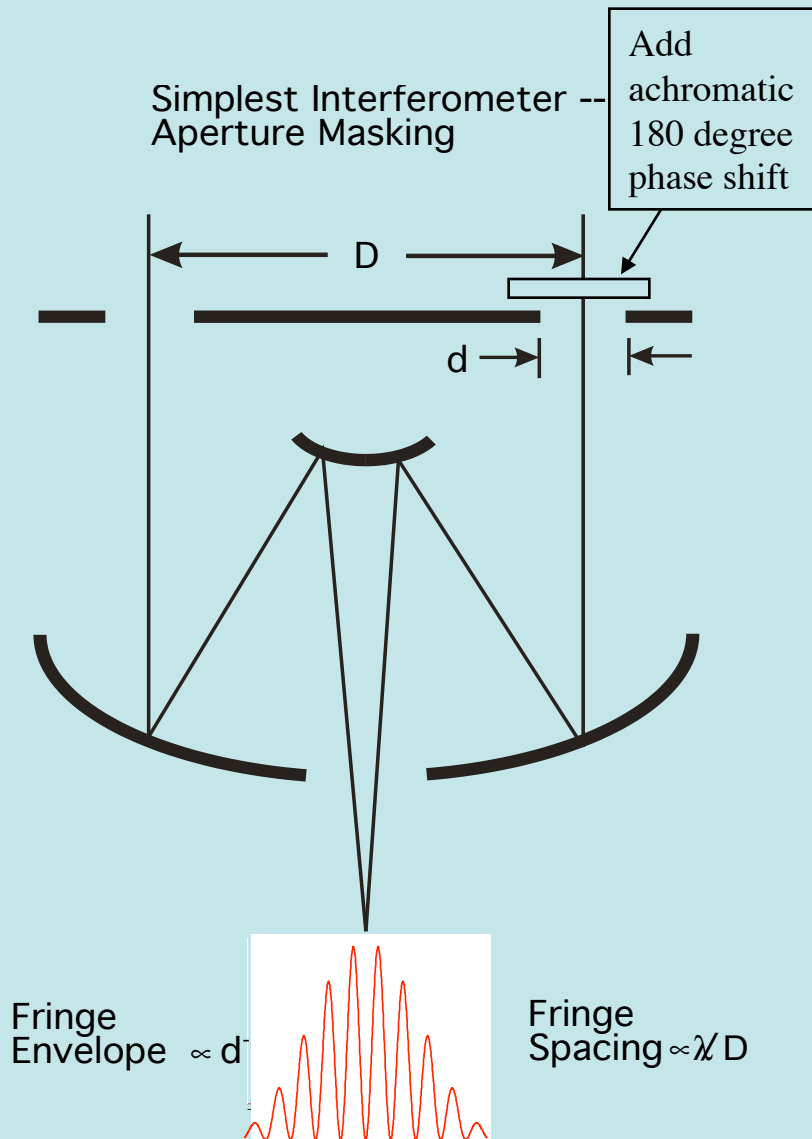
A SMALL Cooled Space Telescope is Very Sensitive Compared to a LARGE Ground-based Telescope



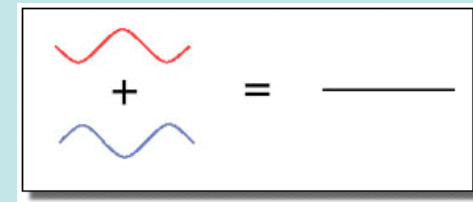
Left panel . The sensitivity of the FKSI system (1 m telescopes) with telescope temperature at 40 K compared to either two 10 m Keck telescopes or two Keck 2 m outrigger telescopes.

Right panel. Effect of telescope temperature on FKSI sensitivity.

A simple nulling interferometer



- You get a null when pathlengths are equal on both sides -- “white light null fringe”



- You get a peak when pathlengths differ by one half wavelength -- a “bright fringe”

